

Bissonette, A. M. (2009). *Cyberlaw: Maximizing safety and minimizing risk in classrooms*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

A book review/reflection by Janine Lim.

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This book is a new up-to-date review of the legal issues in the use of the Internet within schools. The author addresses several important issues including cyberbullying, student use of the Internet, staff use of the Internet, privacy and security, the school as the Internet Service Provider, copyright law, contracts, and ethical issues.

Within each chapter, three cases are shared and discussed, with implications and suggestions for the role of the school and for the development of appropriate policy.

This book showed me the clear connection between law and policy. For example, in the case of cyber bullying, what can the school do where there is a case of cyber bullying off campus and without the use of school resources? Since there is a potential conflict between the school's need to protect students and students' free speech rights, a well written policy addressing cyber bullying both on and off campus, provides the grounds for the school to take action in cases of off campus cyber bullying. Another issue is the student's use of the Internet for criticizing others. If the school policy declares the school Internet resources as a *limited public form*, then the school has the right to restrict speech on school Internet resources. Again, the well written policy makes it easier for the school to avoid legal tangles.

The book includes a thorough sample acceptable use policy, which all schools can use to review and update their policies. Our policy is under review at work right now, and I will be using this book as a reference to make additional recommendations.

Bissonette's writing is easy to read and understand, and clear applications to school policy and practice are shared. This little book is a must read for all administrators, librarians, and educational technology staff.