Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit photos electronically, primarily through cell phones. Sexting can bring severe consequences to youth. M-DCPS is addressing this alarming problem by adopting Sexting Policy # 5136-02 and implementing the Combating Student Sexting Procedures Manual and K-12 Empowering Students to Engage in Positive Communication Curriculum.

For additional information related to Combating Student Sexting, please contact your school counselor or visit our site within the Division of Student Services at: http://studentservices.dadeschools.net/sexting/index.asp or call us at: 305 995-7338

Prevention is the key

Sexting is illegal!
Additional Advice for Parents

• Don’t wait for an incident to happen to your child or your child’s friend before you talk about the consequences of sexting. Sure, talking about sex or dating with teens can be uncomfortable, but it’s better to have the talk before something happens.

• Remind your kids that once an image is sent, it can never be retrieved -- and they will lose control of it. Ask teens how they would feel if their teachers, parents, or the entire school saw the picture, because that happens all the time.

• Talk about pressures to send revealing photos. Let teens know that you understand how they can be pushed or dared into sending something. Tell them that no matter how big the social pressure is, the potential social humiliation can be hundreds of times worse.

• Teach your children that the buck stops with them. If someone sends them a photo, they should delete it immediately. It’s better to be part of the solution than the problem. Besides, if they do send it on, they’re distributing pornography -- and that’s against the law.

• Check out ThatsNotCool.com. It’s a fabulous site that gives kids the language and support to take texting and cell phone power back into their own hands. It’s also a great resource for parents who are uncomfortable dealing directly with this issue.

Talk to your school’s student services professional (e.g. counselor, school social worker, TRUST specialist or school psychologist) for additional support and assistance.