PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM PORNOGRAPHY IN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

Schools and libraries are supposed to be safe environments for children, and the community, to come together to pursue education and character development.

However, sexually exploitive material is seeping into these learning spaces, potentially damaging children's intellectual development and warping their sexual templates to normalize sexual violence and lack of consent.

Schools and libraries are fostering unsafe, unhealthy environments for children in three primary ways:

1 inadequate, or non-existent, computer and Wi-Fi filters to prevent exposure to pornography;

2 inadequate, or non-existent, filters to block pornography on school-owned devices like iPads or laptops that are distributed to children.

3 online school databases that expose children to pornography, normalize sexually violent and risky acts, and promote prostitution;

» This is a national outrage.

Pornography turns once-safe community schools and libraries into a XXX space that fosters child sexual abuse, sexual assault, exhibitionism, stalking, and lewd behavior in libraries across the country.

Quick facts about the harms of pornography:

■ A 2014 study found that increased pornography use is linked to decreased brain matter in the areas of motivation and decision-making, impaired impulse control, and desensitization to sexual reward.

■ A 2015 meta-analysis of 22 studies from seven countries found that internationally the consumption of pornography was significantly associated with increases in verbal and physical aggression, among males and females alike

■ As a result of viewing pornography women reported lowered body image, criticism from their partners regarding their bodies increased pressure to perform acts seen in pornographic films, and less actual sex, while men reported being more critical of their partners' body and less interested in actual sex.

■ A 2015 study found that men's frequency of pornography use is positively linked to body image insecurity regarding muscularity and body fat, and to increased anxiety in romantic relationships.

For citations and further research, visit *EndSexualExploitation.org/publichealth/*

Our Safe Schools, Safe Libraries project is a grassroots campaign designed to empower parents throughout the country with the tools needed to identify the local schools and public libraries where children are at risk.

Learn more and get involved at *SafeSchoolsSafeLibraries.com*

Is this the kind of sexual education we want our communities to promote

The good news is you can make a difference through the National Center on Sexual Exploitation's Safe Schools, Safe Libraries project.