SFUSD and Common Sense Media Conduct District-wide Digital Media Safety Instruction Day

District Attorney Gascón Urges Students to Learn How to Use Internet Wisely

January 18, 2013, (San Francisco) Today all students within the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) learned the basics of digital citizenship, i.e. how to be safe and smart online. In a coordinated, district-wide effort that's supported by the District Attorney's office, all 55,000 K-12 students in the district were given a 45-minute lesson from Common Sense Media's Digital Literacy and Citizenship curriculum as part of Digital Media Safety Instruction Day.

“Digital Media Safety Instruction Day is important to ensure that our students are ready and able to think critically and interact responsibly with technology,” says Kevin Truitt, associate superintendent for Student Family & Community Support, SFUSD.

“Today's technology creates both opportunities and real risks for young people” says District Attorney George Gascón. “This dedicated day for learning about digital media safety is an important step in preparing our students to safely navigate the challenges that exist in the digital world.”

SFUSD students – like students nationwide – are using the immense power of the Internet and mobile technologies to explore, connect, create, and learn in ways never before imagined. But issues that emerge – from cyberbullying to privacy concerns to uncertainty about which information to trust online – require new, 21st-century skills. While giving students some foundational knowledge, ethics, and skills around digital citizenship, SFUSD is also satisfying educational requirements of new federal regulations, allowing the district to continue to receive financial support for affordable classroom technology – specifically hardware and Internet access.

“Teachers are second only to parents as the adults who spend the most time with kids,” says Merve Lapus, education program manager at Common Sense Media. “Digital Media Safety Instruction Day is a great opportunity for local educators to use their influence and empower their students to engage successfully in the constantly connected digital world.”

About Common Sense Media

Common Sense Media is dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in a world of media and technology. Through our education programs and policy efforts, Common Sense Media empowers parents, educators, and young people to become knowledgeable and responsible digital citizens. To see all of Common Sense Media's education resources, visit www.commonsense.org/educators. For more information about Common Sense Media, visit: www.commonsense.org.

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