

# Purpose

The session will focus on interactions between educators and students, with a special emphasis on the utilization of social/electronic media, teachers as role models and actions outside the classroom.



# Stimulating Thinking

- How does social media influence my work with students?
- How do interactions with students influence laws and policies?



# Participants will



- articulate effective uses of social media to enhance student learning;
- gain an understanding of appropriate and inappropriate social media interactions;
- identify social media grooming actions used to initiate inappropriate teacher - student relationships; and
- make connections between social media utilization guidelines, recommendations, and educator misconduct consequences.

# Participants will



- Gain an understanding of teachers as role models.
- Understand that their activity outside of the classroom impacts their profession.
- \*\*\*This combined module 4 with 2

# **BREAKING NEWS**

**Teacher Busted for Drugs Suspended by District**

**Teacher Resigns After Twerking Video**

**Teacher Fired for Stripping While on Leave**

**HS Principal Lied About Hypnotizing Students**

**Texas on Record-Setting Pace for Inappropriate  
Teacher-Student Relationships**



# TOP NEWS

**A Thank You to the Teacher  
Who Saw What No One Else Did**

**Eleven Education Leaders Had Their  
Lives Changed by Amazing Teachers**

**Assistant Principal Organizes  
Fundraisers for Students**

# Life Under a Microscope





# Our Private Lives Aren't So Private Anymore...

Why?



# The Impact of a Personal Online Post



Taylor [blurred]

I HATE MY BOSS

Like · Comment · 5 hours ago near Lucia · [location icon]



like this.



Lizzy [blurred] Dido

5 hours ago via mobile · Like · [thumbs up icon] 1



Jeremy [blurred] You do realize we're friends on fbook right?

about an hour ago via mobile · Unlike · [thumbs up icon] 1

# Consequences of Actions



OUTCOME

- ★ The professional relationship with his principal became strained.
- ★ The principal lost respect and trust for the teacher.



# Consequences of Actions

- ★ Loss of respect and credibility from colleagues, administrators, students, parents, board members, and community.
- ★ Loss of employment.
- ★ Loss of future employment/certification.

OUTCOME



# Ramifications





# Educators as Role Models



# A Role Model

A role model is a person whose behavior is imitated by others.



# Community Expectations for Educator Actions Outside of the School Day





## The community expects educators to

- ☑ be keenly aware that their actions reflect on the profession and the schools they represent;
- ☑ demonstrate the highest level of professional judgment inside and outside of the school day; and



## The community expects educators to

- understand that their presence within the community should be reflective of a law-abiding, trustworthy, and respectful citizen.

**Discuss the challenges of being a role model for students outside of school.**





- **Reprimand**
- **Suspension**
- **Termination**
- **Loss of Certification**
- **Incarceration**



# Positive Impact of Social Media

## Enhancing Learning Outcomes





*How can the utilization of social media by educators cross serious teacher-student boundaries?*

# Social Media Boundary Crossings

What begins with an innocent string of social media communications (intentional or not) can soon lead to a strong emotional connection with a student.





# An Inappropriate Relationship Begins

## Voluntary statement given to law enforcement:

*“I began playing Words With Friends with several students before the end of the school year, including Gabriella. I often chatted with students about the game. My conversations began innocently, but after school let out in June my conversations with Gabriella became more intense.”*

(Name has been changed.)

# An Inappropriate Relationship Ends

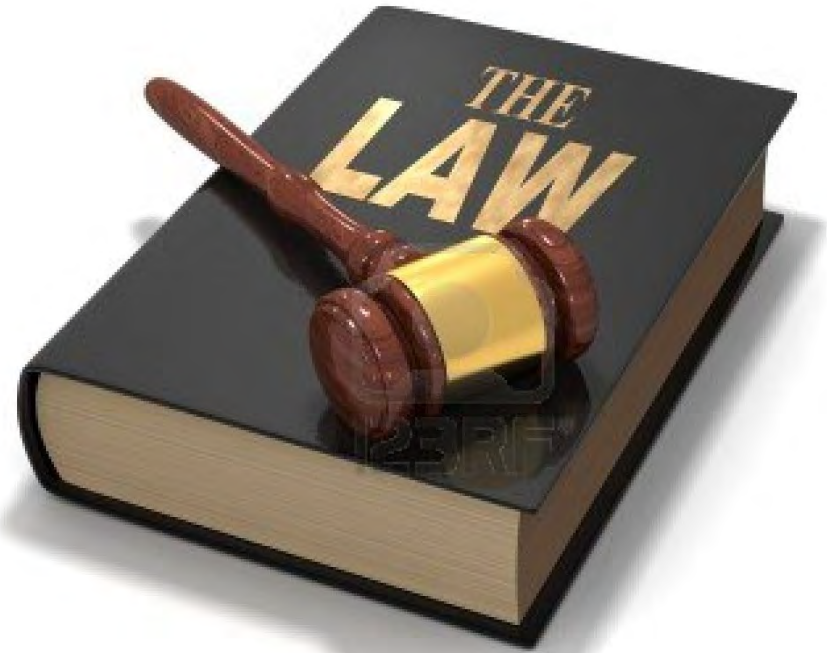
## Voluntary statement given to law enforcement:

*“I told my wife that I had an emotional relationship with Gabriella and it moved beyond an appropriate boundary between a teacher and student. My wife was angry and demanded that I terminate contact with Gabriella entirely. I then emailed Gabriella and asked her to not try and contact me or my wife and I apologized for any emotional harm I had caused her.”*

**(Name has been changed.)**

# Outcome of This Case

**The teacher voluntarily surrendered his teaching certificate.**



A photograph showing a man with a full beard and glasses, wearing a green jumpsuit, being escorted by a police officer in a tan uniform. The man is looking towards the camera with a serious expression. The officer is looking to the side. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Sentenced to 60 Years in Prison

**15 times EVERY week in this country**



# Is Social Media to Blame for Inappropriate Student-Teacher Relationships?



# The Impact of Social Media

In Alabama, social media and text messaging continue to be the driving factors in the number of sexual misconduct cases investigated.





# Technology Tools and Platforms

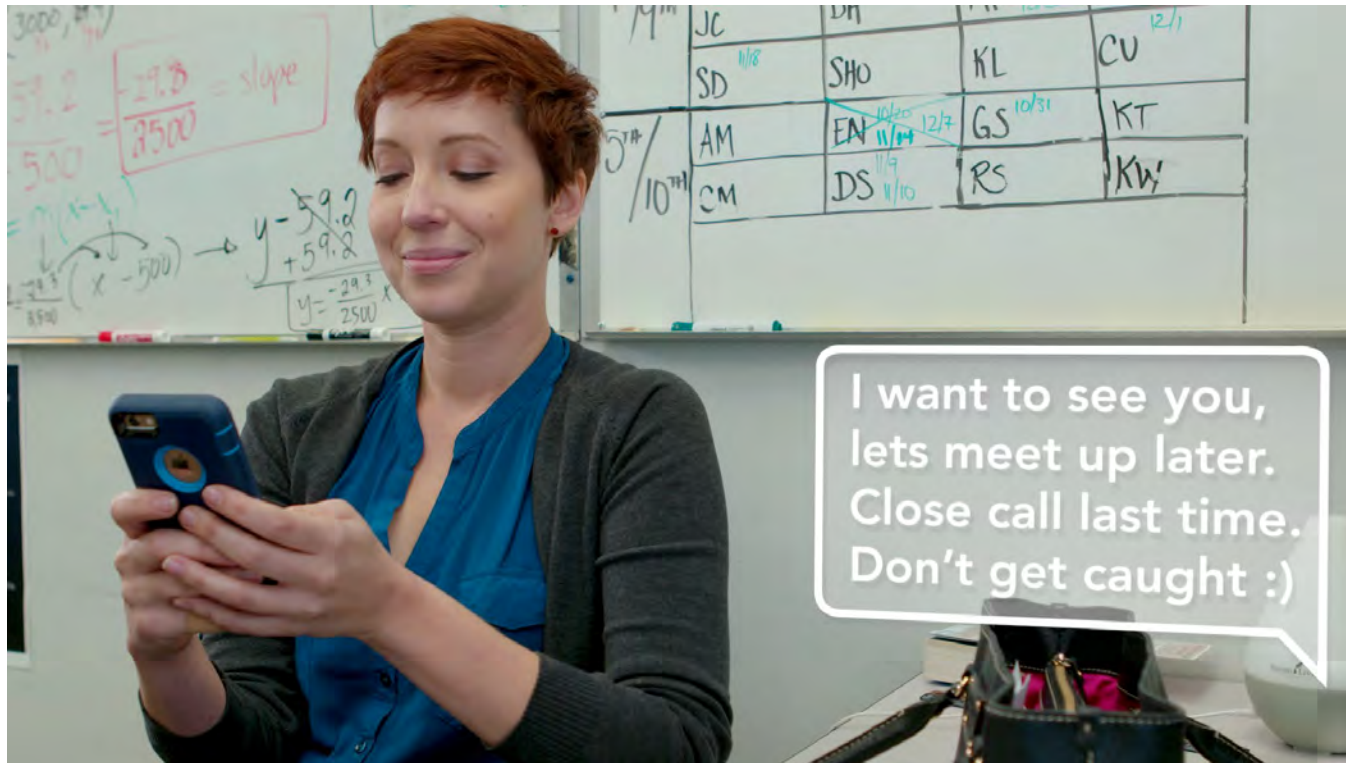




# Social media leaves a digital footprint.



# Video Scenario



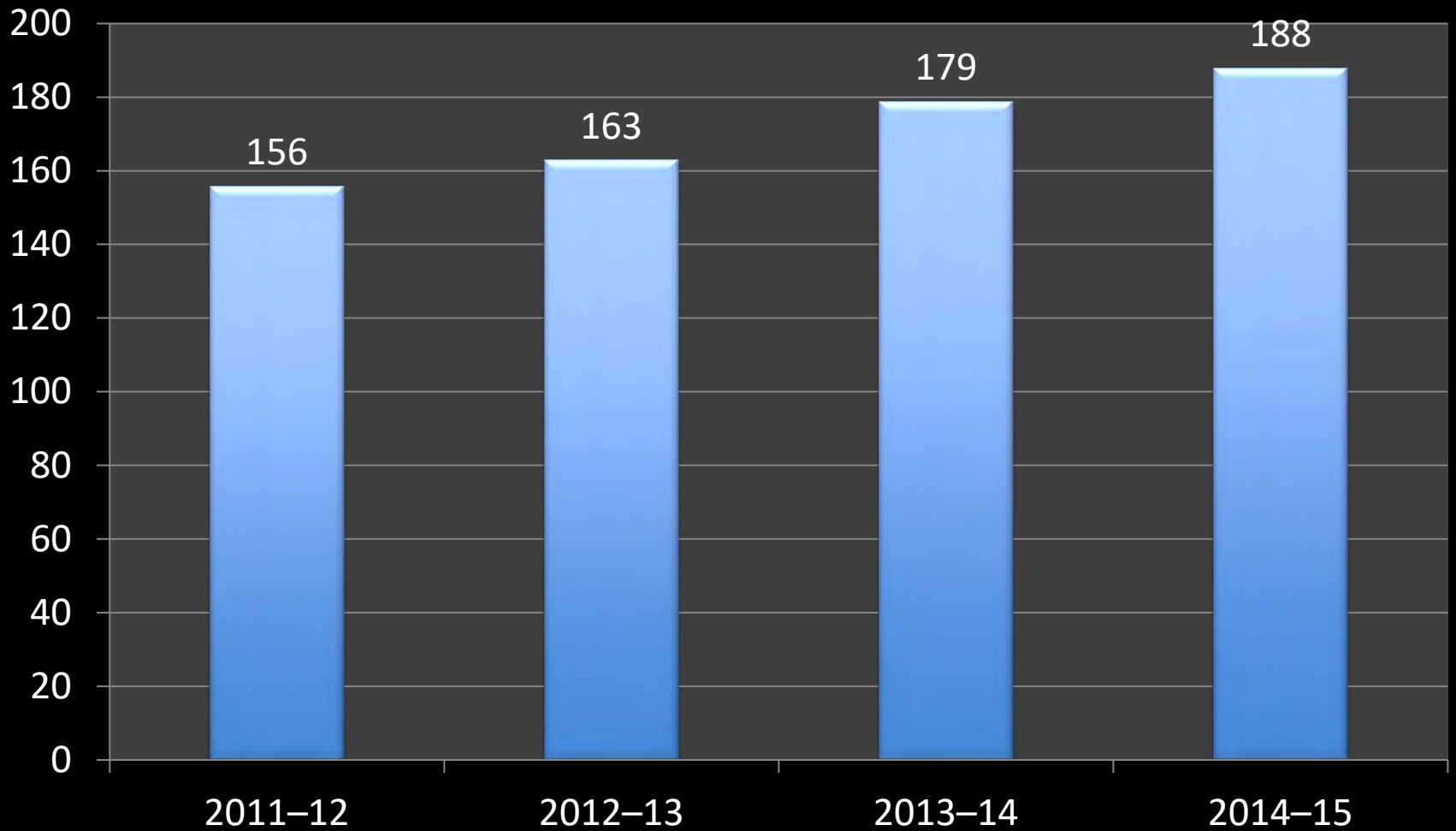
# Video Scenario Debrief



# Sobering Statistics



## IRWSM Investigations Opened



# Treading on Dangerous Ground







- Four out of five educators use social media for personal communication. However . . .
- More than 62% of educators surveyed have had minimal or no training in the area of interacting with students and parents through social media.

(University of Phoenix College of Education, 2015)

**GROOMING**

**STUDENTS**

**Social Media**

**Awareness**



# Appropriate vs. Inappropriate



iMessage  
Today 1:50 PM

Hi Mike. Be a sweetie and send me your late assignment. I'm waiting...

Delivered

iMessage  
Today 1:50 PM

Hi Mike. Be a sweetie and send me your late assignment. I'm waiting...

Delivered

I've been busy. Can we make a deal?

iMessage  
Today 1:50 PM

Hi Mike. Be a sweetie and send me your late assignment. I'm waiting...

I've been busy. Can we make a deal?

Depends on how good the deal is.....

Delivered

iMessage  
Today 1:50 PM

Hi Mike. Be a sweetie and send me your late assignment. I'm waiting...

I've been busy. Can we make a deal?

Depends on how good the deal is.....

Delivered

I'll Snapchat you with a great deal.

F E E D B A C K

iMessage  
Today 1:59 PM

Hello Mike. A quick reminder to send me your assignment. It was due yesterday.

Delivered



iMessage





iMessage  
Today 1:59 PM

Hello Mike. A quick reminder to send me your assignment. It was due yesterday.

Delivered

Thank you, Ms. C. I will send today. Sorry it's late.

iMessage  
Today 1:59 PM

Hello Mike. A quick reminder to send me your assignment. It was due yesterday.

Thank you, Ms. C. I will send today. Sorry it's late.

Your graded paper will be posted to your school Dropbox account.

Delivered

SHARE

A group of hands holding up large red letters spelling 'SHARE'. The letters are thick and three-dimensional, and the hands are positioned below them, gripping the bottom edges. The background is plain white.



**Inappropriate**



**Social Media**



**Communications**

What was the nature, purpose, timing, and amount of the communication?

PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION/THINKSTOCK

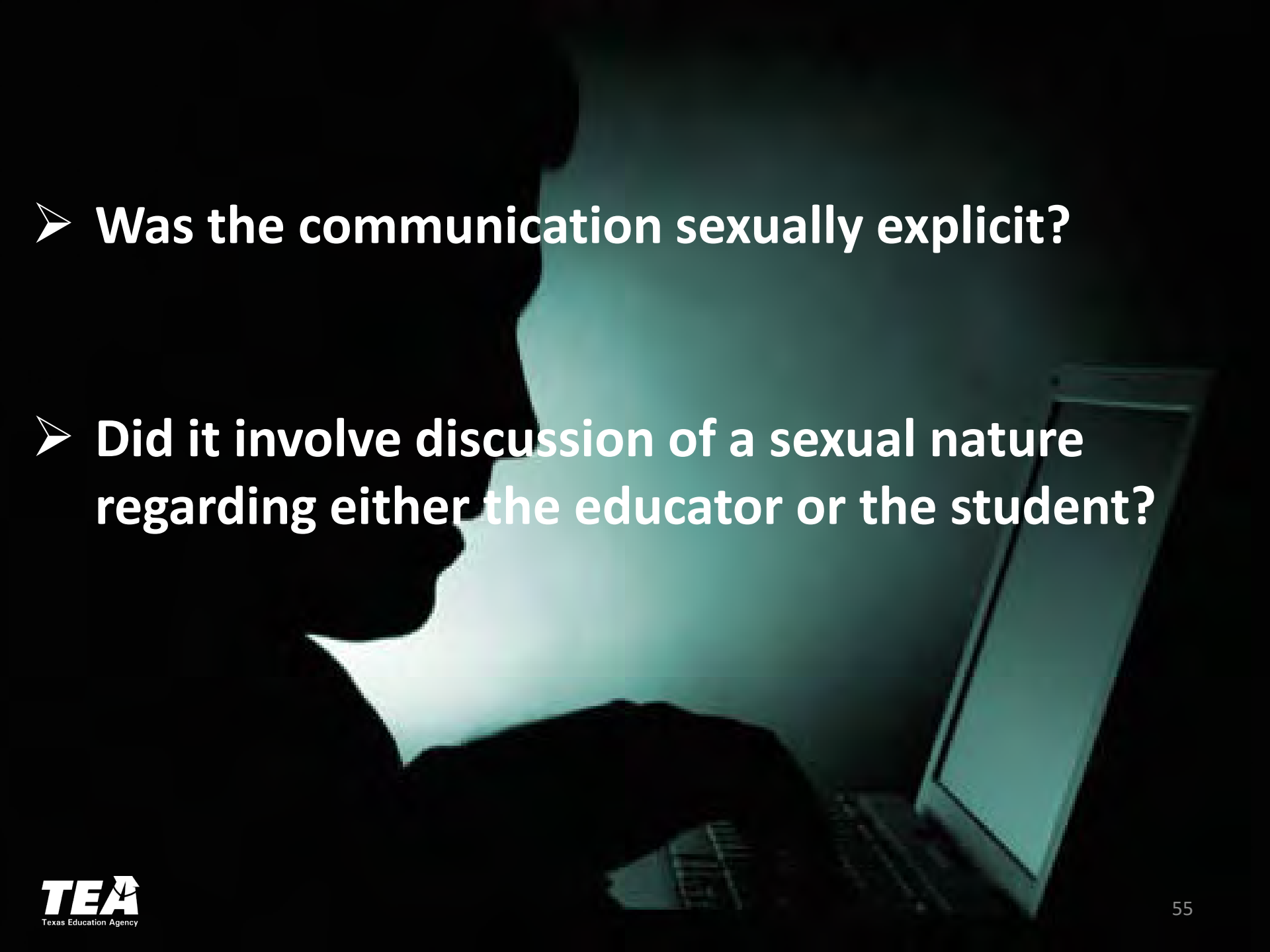
**Was the communication made openly, or did the educator attempt to conceal it?**

**SECRET**

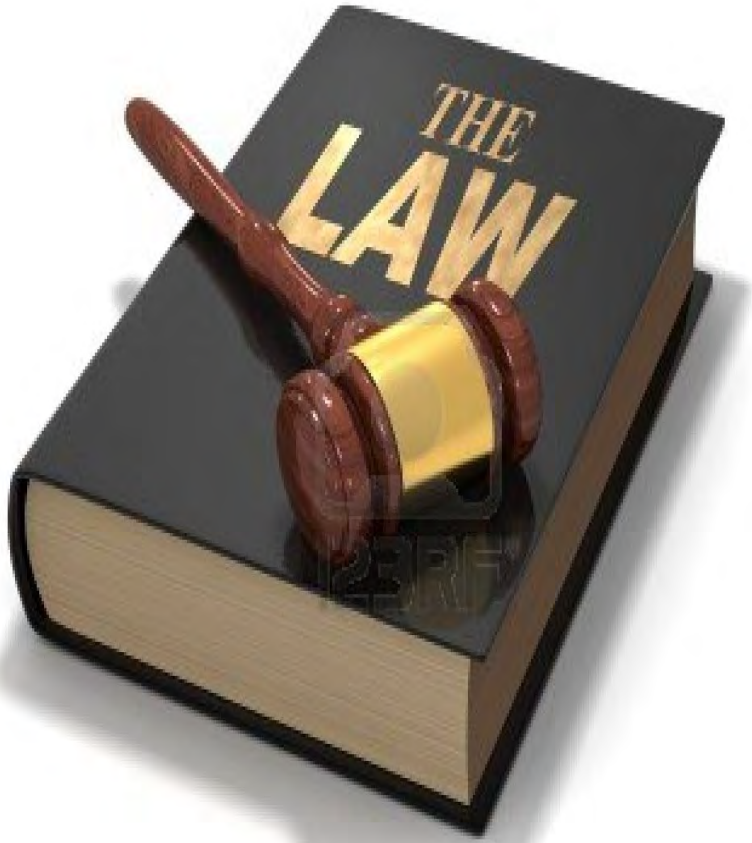


**Could the communication be interpreted as soliciting contact or a romantic relationship?**



- 
- A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is shown in profile, looking towards the right. They are using a laptop, which is illuminated with a soft teal light. The background is dark, and the overall mood is focused and professional.
- **Was the communication sexually explicit?**
  - **Did it involve discussion of a sexual nature regarding either the educator or the student?**

# The Law and the Consequences



- **Loss of Career**
- **Loss of Freedom**
- **Register as Sex Offender**



# Utilization Guidelines

# Social Media Utilization Guidelines

- Be aware of what you post online. You represent not only yourself, but also your school district.
- Follow your district's policy for electronic and online communication.
- Be transparent by maintaining openness, visibility, and accountability.

(O'Donovan, 2012)

# Social Media Utilization Guidelines

- Consider all electronic communication to be accessible and a matter of record.
- Choose appropriate subject matter and words that are courteous, grammatically correct, and professional.

(O'Donovan, 2012)

# Would your online account pass muster?



# OUTCOMES





# Strategies to Decrease Incidents

- Provide educator ethics training that focuses on appropriate use of social media.
- Strengthen and communicate district social media utilization policies and guidelines.



# Strategies to Decrease Incidents

- Report suspected incidents consistently and in a timely manner.
- Expand accountability for withholding information.
- Acknowledge that schools will enforce a zero-tolerance policy.



# PERFORMANCE TASK

# Reflection



ANY  
QUESTIONS  
?

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