



School District of Loyal

Loyal, Wisconsin

3/17/2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to inform you of a growing concern that has been affecting children and teenagers across the country, including in our own state. Law enforcement agencies have reported an increase in cases of "sextortion," a form of online exploitation in which predators manipulate young individuals into sending explicit images or videos. These criminals often use coercion, threats, or deception, preying on the trust and vulnerability of children.

Sextortion can have devastating effects on a child's emotional well-being, mental health, and safety. Many victims feel trapped, ashamed, or too scared to seek help, which can lead to severe consequences, including anxiety, depression, and in some tragic cases, self-harm. It is essential that we work together to educate our children about online safety and provide them with the resources and support they need.

To help protect your child from online exploitation, we encourage you to:

- **Have open conversations** about the dangers of sharing personal images and information online.
- **Monitor online activity** and ensure privacy settings are in place on social media and gaming platforms.
- **Teach your child to recognize red flags**, such as individuals asking for private photos or making threats.
- **Encourage them to seek help** if they feel uncomfortable or threatened online.
- **Report suspicious activity** to law enforcement and online platforms immediately.

If your child has been affected by sextortion or if you have concerns, we encourage you to reach out to school counselors, local authorities, or trusted organizations for guidance and support. We are including several links that have further information: [Take It Down](#), [Missing Kids](#), [Speak Up Speak Out](#), and the [FBI](#).

As a district, we remain committed to promoting digital safety and supporting our students in navigating the challenges of the online world. If you have any questions or need additional resources, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our children safe.

Sincerely,

Loyal School District Administration & Pupil Services Team

"Committed to Excellence"

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