

## **Teens and the Internet** HiTOPS Educator

*“I don’t think our students have any idea how exposed they are online.”*

*“Are kids really meeting new people through the internet?”*

*“Is it okay for teachers to look at Facebook or MySpace profiles?”*

### **Designed for: Professionals**

Developmentally, social networking websites, such as MySpace and Facebook, provide adolescents with opportunities to explore different personas and meet other teens in what they perceive as ‘safe’ and fun ways. Adults are often unaware of the extent to which their children interact with others on the Internet and feel ill-equipped to offer guidance or structure for using these websites and navigating the web.

This in-service is designed to help professionals understand how teens are using the Internet, particularly MySpace, Facebook, and other social networking sites. Professionals will learn how to encourage their students to make safe choices when using the Web.

### **Our goals are to help professionals:**

- Learn why social networking websites are developmentally compelling to adolescents
- Understand how social networking websites work
- Learn how to talk with students about using the internet safely

**Average length of in-service:** 90 minutes; half-day; whole-day

**Recommended number of participants:** 20-100