# SEPTEMBER PRIVACY TIP

*WV State Privacy Office*

## Back To School Tips

### Keeping Children Safe Online

In this day and age, children aren't just packing their book bags with their snacks and supplies, they have laptops and tablets that they use mostly for their work. They can be researching a topic, working on a group project, or meeting with their teachers. Kids nowadays spend more time online than they ever have. How do we keep them safe?

1. **Keep your computer in an open area** - Keep the computer in a family room or a high traffic area. It will be easier to monitor the children's computer activity and will also encourage safe habits online as it poses the sense of accountability.

2. **Set limits and warn about dangers** - Children are very well versed in the online world, setting clearly defined limitations on their web-enhanced devices is a necessary step in keeping them safe. Discuss the dangers of the internet so they can recognize suspicious behaviors or activities. Discuss the risks of sharing certain types of information online. Awareness is the goal.

3. **Communicate with the school** - Find out the district's or school's current policies and practices for the devices that the children take home. Be aware of the applications that they will use. Learn the school's privacy policies for the students and the devices.

*Source: Safe Online Surfing - https://sos.fbi.gov*

*Here are some additional resources to check out:*

- *K-12 Cybersecurity: Keep the Kids Secure from Kindergarten to Graduation*

- *Keeping Children Safe Online*

- *The Concerned Parent's Toolbox - Tools and Tricks to Protect Your Kids*