

## Why Ban Social Media?

### Avenue for Predators

Social media is a direct conduit to predators. The FBI reported in 2019 that every day 750,000 pedophiles go online to groom children. The predator first establishes a nonsexual relationship with the child to gain trust, and then exploits the child by demanding naked pictures while threatening harm or exposure to friends or family. Many apps (and video games) have a 'live chat' function exposing children to potential predators.

### Promotes Hatred

Social media promotes radicalization and hatred by using AI to divert user to content containing anger words like "attack, bad, blame" driving users on to hate sites. As anger rises and there is less 'deep thinking', impulsivity becomes the norm.

### Grows Racism and Polarity

Social media grows racism and polarized thinking. Social media (including Alexa) is often marketed as helping kids learn and grow yet information given is often promoting racial stereotypes which results in the rapidly growing polarization of humanity.

## What Can You Do?

Young brains do not have the ability to regulate social media consumption and are consequently more prone to addiction. Author urges for parents to team with teachers and school districts to enact an **immediate ban on social media** use under 18 years of age. This ban would mean that in addition to parents saying "No" to cell phones at home, schools would also prohibit all cell phones on school grounds and off-site events. School cell phone bans are an increasingly popular initiative by progressive schools resulting in enhanced social communication, mood, grades and well being. Acting as industry change leaders, school cell phone bans will serve to protect the health and well being of all their students. Should government step forward to regulate the social media industry and ensure child safety, this social media ban could be reviewed at that time.

This brochure is excerpted from original version found on [www.movingtolearn.ca](http://www.movingtolearn.ca) blog and was written by pediatric occupational therapist Cris Rowan who gives permission for mass distribution.

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## Social Media Is NOT Social and Is NOT Safe

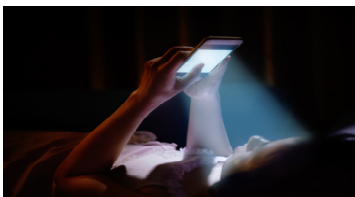


**What every parent and  
school should know  
regarding perils associated  
with social media.**

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## Social Media Truths

‘Social media’ is defined as media created for the purpose of communication and includes You Tube, WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok etc. While every parent wants their child to be ‘social’, using social media as a communication tool unfortunately achieves the opposite effect...a **socially deficit** child with social phobia and inability to communicate with people in real life. Despite being an ineffective tool for meaningful social communication, social media is **presently unregulated** and poses significant hazards for children that in some cases, have proven deadly. This brochure written by Cris Rowan a pediatric occupational therapist reveals what’s really going on behind the doors of the social media industry and illustrates how social media is **irreparably harming children**. Read the research referenced and strategy focused 9 reasons to ban all social media until age 18 and act now to create safe and sustainable futures for all children.



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### Fosters Mental Illness

Social media is a leading cause of mental illness in children and youth. 1 in 5 children between the ages 8 and 18 years have been diagnosed with a mental illness. Children and youth are using social media to seek human connection, yet only get fraction of what they really need resulting in feelings of loneliness and despair.

### Exposure to Harmful Content

Social media apps contain harmful content such as pornography, self-harm and suicide. Students are very adept at circumventing harmful content blocking initiatives. Schools requiring students to use social media for learning is alarming and implies complicity.

### Addiction

Social media is addictive. Corporations utilize ‘persuasive design’ principles to make their platforms addictive. The longer the child stays on the app the more ads they view, bringing more revenue to the app developer.



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### Surveillance

Social media is designed to harvest data from users. Artificial intelligence (AI) gathers user data which is sold to marketers. Social media design is fiscally motivated, allows predation and promotes addiction. No one ever gets something for nothing.

### Data and Privacy Insecurity

Internet Safety Labs sampled 663 schools in all 50 states and reported in 2022 that 96% of K-12 school apps share children’s personal information with third parties, 78% of the time with advertising and data analytic entities without the knowledge or consent of the users, parents nor the schools. Children should not have to choose between an education and privacy.

### Increases Bullying

Social media anonymity is like adding gas to what was already a growing social media fire. 1 in 5 children report being cyberbullied. Half of cyberbullied children report not knowing the perpetrator’s identity and 56% report they wouldn’t tell their parents due to fear of losing access to their phones.