

**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

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CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

GORDON J. MACDONALD  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JANE E. YOUNG  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 3, 2020

Dear Superintendent:

Media literacy is an essential skill for all of us to be able to make healthy choices about our own behaviors and to help create safe communities. This skill is especially important for our youth, who are particularly vulnerable to the potential risks associated with exposure to media. Media use has been identified as a factor contributing to negative academic, social and emotional outcomes for teens.

Research has demonstrated that media literacy interventions in schools have successfully increased students' understanding of how media influences their perceptions of violence and other high-risk behaviors, including substance misuse. For many years, the Attorney General's Office has partnered with Media Power Youth, a New Hampshire-based nonprofit organization, to provide resources and expertise to youth-serving professionals focused on issues such as violence, cyberbullying and substance misuse. The goal of this work is to set students on a path to make informed choices about media usage.

The most recent initiative is the launch of a new media literacy program, *Screenshots*. The *Screenshots* curriculum provides lesson plans and resources for educators to teach middle school students about how to use social media in healthy and responsible ways. Media Power Youth is providing professional development workshops throughout the state over the next two years to disseminate this curriculum and expand educators' knowledge of media and its impact on student health and behavior.

Enclosed please find detailed information about the *Screenshots* curriculum. I encourage you to participate in and/or host one of the workshops. If you have any questions, please contact Media Power Youth's Education Program Manager Claire Garand at [claire.garand@mediapoweryouth.org](mailto:claire.garand@mediapoweryouth.org) or call (603) 222-1200.

Thank you for your efforts to help our youth safely navigate the online world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon J. MacDonald".

Gordon J. MacDonald  
Attorney General

#2606285