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## Teaching Digital Citizenship and Social Emotion Learning Together: A Comprehensive Literature Review

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# Teaching Digital Citizenship and Social Emotion Learning Together: A Comprehensive Literature Review

Jill K Baird, MS

## Introduction

There is an increasing number of incidents of students who abuse their right to be on social media. These students lack the digital citizenship skills to be upstanding online citizens. Along with this, student mental health issues have also increased in the past five years. Teachers are trying to increase student emotional learning to become more thoughtful citizens in society. These two topics are inter-related and drive each other in promoting strong citizenship in person and online.

## Problem

**Chart 1.** Ferrara & Yang, 2015; Harrison & Polizzi, 2022; Jones & Mitchell, 2016

When students are not exposed to these areas, they can experience these issues:

Issues with Digital Citizenship	Issues with Social Emotional Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyberbullying</li> <li>• Inappropriate Content</li> <li>• Antisocial behavior (doxing, dogpiling, etc.)</li> <li>• Strong emotional responses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative online bullying (cyberbullying)</li> <li>• Stress</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Conflict</li> <li>• Disrespect</li> </ul>

## Digital Literacy Skills Model

**Chart 2.** Eshet-Alkalai's (2012) Digital Literacy Skills Model provides students with a strong base of digital citizenship skills.

<b>Socio-Emotional</b>	to understand the "emotional and sociological aspects of working in the cyberspace" (p 271)
<b>Information</b>	to understand how to access, consume, and sort information gathered
<b>Branching</b>	to understand how to navigate cyberspace without getting lost
<b>Reproduction</b>	to understand how to use preexisting digital content and avoid plagiarism
<b>Photo-Visual</b>	to understand visual graphics and photographs
<b>Real-Time Thinking</b>	to understand information to create knowledge

## Future Study

- The connections between digital citizenship education and social emotional learning are growing, but there is a relatively small amount of research available to connect these two subject areas.
- There is a need to move digital citizenship education forward for our students with the emotional support aspect that is not often seen in digital citizenship programs.
- Curriculum needs to be identified to provide digital citizenship and social emotional guidance for teachers and students based on the Eshet-Alkalai Model.
- Explore how to advance digital citizenship education by exploring the moral decisions and incivility Harrison and Polizzi (2022) saw in adolescents online.

## Background

- Teaching students how to respect each other while on social media will lead to students being respectful and empathetic to each other (Jones & Mitchell, 2016; Sprenger, 2020).
- Extensive digital media use results in social and emotional issues that are linked to poor academic performance (Probst, 2017).
- Eshet-Alkalai's Digital Literacy Model (2012) will provide students with both areas of learning and ensure students are able to use their socio-emotional skills to evaluate data, think abstractly, and collaborate virtually effectively.
- These skills provide students with a solid foundation for understanding digital literacy while using intelligence and emotional quotients skills to navigate and survive cyberspace (Eshet-Alkalai, 2012).

## References

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