

Public Availability of the ActionPoint App 1.0

Loyola University Chicago and Arizona State University Jointly Launch New Anti-Bullying Mobile App "ActionPoint"

Chicago, IL, December 8, 2023 - Loyola University Chicago (LUC) and Arizona State University (ASU) are proud to announce the launch of the ActionPoint App, a cutting-edge application designed to combat bullying through the strengthening of parent-teen relationships. ActionPoint is a no-cost app designed and implemented by the BullyBlocker research group. ActionPoint is a user-friendly platform that empowers parents and teens to foster appropriate online behaviors, learn more about cyberbullying scenarios, and communicate effectively regarding social media and technology use in their everyday lives. The various app activities are supported by empirical research in the social sciences.

Utilizing survey-based activities, the app enables comparing perceptions between parents and teens regarding social media use. Modules currently supported by the app include (1) Comparison of Social Media Perceptions, (2) Identifying Cyberbullying, (3) Your Social Media Experiences, (4) Parent-Teen Contract, (4) Social Media IQ, and (5) Bullying Rank. This last module helps parents assess their teen's bullying risk considering past experiences and various risk factors. You can learn more about the ActionPoint App on the project website (<u>bullyblocker.cs.luc.edu</u>).

Download the app (iOS): https://apps.apple.com/us/app/actionpointapp/id6456945574

We encourage our users to let us know about their experiences using the app (<u>bullyblocker@cs.luc.edu</u>). This feedback is a key component in our research and development process.

About the BullyBlocker team. The BullyBlocker research team, supported by the National Science Foundation, is an interdisciplinary research group at Loyola University Chicago and Arizona State University, led by professors Yas Silva (PI LUC) and Deborah Hall (PI ASU), and formed by researchers in computer science and psychology. The team's goal is to integrate computer science and psychology frameworks to advance the understanding of how cyberbullying can be identified and prevented.

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