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## Teens using technology to cheat

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Teenagers are, if nothing else, extremely resourceful. A survey by Common Sense Media of more than 1,000 students ages 13 to 18 found that more than a third said they had used cell phones to cheat at least once. In addition, about 38 percent said they'd copied text directly from the Web and turned it in as their own work.

Other ingenious forms of cheating include storing notes on a cell phone, using camera phones to take pictures of tests to send to classmates and text-messaging friends for answers. The incidence of cheating is the same for honors students and non-honors students, the survey found.

These students are redefining digital ethics. One in four said they thought looking up notes on a cell phone did not constitute cheating. One in five felt it was perfectly ethical to text-message friends or to copy and paste text from the Internet.

Interestingly, more than 76 percent of parents who participated in the survey believe that cheating using technology was rampant, but only a tiny fraction -- 3 percent to 7 percent -- said their own children cheat.

Text-messaging is also widespread among this crowd, regardless of whether schools have policies banning cell phone use. The average teenager sends 440 texts per week, 110 of them during class, according to Common Sense Media, a nonprofit advocacy group that studies the effect of digital media on children and families. That translates to about three text messages each class period.

"Kids have always found ways to cheat in school," the group said in a statement. "But the tools they now have at their disposal are more powerful than ever."

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