Flash-n-Flush
A 90-SECOND READ · K12 CYBER FORWARD

STAFF EDITION
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SHARED BY
Your school

HOLIDAY SHOPPING EDITION

Missed delivery? Let that text go missing.

Between classroom wish-list orders and holiday shopping, almost everyone is expecting a package this month. Scammers know it, so fake 'delivery problem' texts arrive with a link and a tiny fee.

1

Track it yourself

Skip the link in any delivery text. Open the store's app, or the tracking link in your original order confirmation, and check there. If there's a real problem, you'll see it.

2

Tiny fees, big losses

A $1.99 'redelivery fee' is how they get your card number, and sometimes much more. If a text asks you to pay to release a package, treat it as a scam and check your order directly.

3

Wish-list orders ship to school

Classroom wish lists should ship to the school address and be logged with the front office. If a 'donor' or 'shipper' asks you to confirm personal details by text, stop and check with the office.

Spot the scam

PKG Notice (912) 555-0133 — Text message

PKG NOTICE: Your parcel could not be delivered due to an incomplete address. To schedule redelivery, pay a $1.99 handling fee at parcel-redeliver-help.example/track within 12 hours or your item will be returned to sender. We apologize for the inconvenience. Reply STOP to opt out of delivery alerts.

Spot the scam: how many red flags can you find?

Red flags I found: ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯

Look for: surprise, urgency, secrecy, an unusual payment method, a sender or link you can't confirm.

FUN FACT

Fake package delivery problems were the number one text scam reported to the FTC in 2024. Reported losses to text scams that year hit $470 million, more than five times the 2020 number.

Source: FTC Data Spotlight: Top text scams of 2024

Your 60-second move

Delete any delivery text you weren't expecting. Then check one real order in the store's own app so you know where to look next time.

Who do I tell?

Name / ext. _____

Report channel _____

ANSWER

Five flags: a vague address problem, a small fee, an odd link, a 12-hour deadline and a return-to-sender threat. Safe move: don't tap. Check tracking in the store's app or your order email, then delete the text and report it as junk in your messaging app.

- A vague 'incomplete address' with no order or store named.
- A small fee is the hook to capture your card number.
- The link is not the store's site or your order's tracking page.
- A 12-hour clock to rush you.
- A 'return to sender' threat to make you worry.

Scan for a 2-minute lesson on holiday scams
Free, no sign-in · k12cyberforward.com/learn