

7540.03 - STUDENT EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

Students are authorized to use the Board's computers, laptops, tablets, personal communication devices (as defined by Policy [5136](#)), network, and Internet connection and online educational services ("Education Technology" or "Ed-Tech") for educational purposes. Use of the Education Technology is a privilege, not a right. When using the Ed Tech, students must conduct themselves in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Ed Tech, including any violation of these guidelines, may result in cancellation of the privilege, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Handbook, and/or civil or criminal liability. Prior to accessing the Education Technology students and parents of minor students must sign the Student Education Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement. Parents are encouraged to discuss their values with their children and encourage students to make decisions regarding their use of the Ed-Tech that is in accord with their personal and family values, in addition to the Board's standards.

Smooth operation of the Board's Education Technology relies upon users adhering to the following guidelines. The guidelines outlined below are provided so that users are aware of their responsibilities.

- A. Students are responsible for their behavior and communication on using the Education Technology. All use of the Education Technology must be consistent with the educational mission and goals of the District.
- B. Students may only access and use the Education Technology by using their assigned account. Use of another person's account/email address/password is prohibited. Students may not allow other users to utilize their account/email address/password. Students may not go beyond their authorized access. Students are responsible for taking steps to prevent unauthorized access to their accounts by logging off their computers/laptops/tablets/personal communication devices when leaving them unattended.
- C. Students may not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, data or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the District's Network. Students may not intentionally disable any security features of the Education Technology.
- D. Students may not use the Education Technology to engage in "hacking" or other unlawful activities.
 1. Students shall not use the Education Technology to transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or transgender identity, age, height, weight, disability, religion, or political beliefs. Sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, e-mails, or other materials of a sexual nature (i.e. sexting) in electronic or any other form, including the contents of a personal communication device or other electronic equipment is grounds for discipline. Such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.

2. Use of the Education Technology to engage in cyberbullying is prohibited. "Cyberbullying" is defined as the use of information and communication technologies (such as e-mail, cell phone and pager text messages, instant messaging (IM), defamatory personal websites, and defamatory online personal polling websites), to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others." [Bill Belsey (<http://www.cyberbullying.ca>)]

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to the following:

- a. posting slurs or rumors or other disparaging remarks about a student on a website or on weblog;
 - b. sending e-mail or instant messages that are mean or threatening, or so numerous as to drive up the victim's cell phone bill;
 - c. using a camera phone to take and send embarrassing and/or sexually explicit photographs/recordings of students;
 - d. posting misleading or fake photographs of students on websites.
- E. Transmission of any material in violation of any State or Federal law or regulation, or Board policy is prohibited.
- F. Any use of the Education Technology for commercial purposes, advertising, or political lobbying is prohibited.
- G. Students are expected to abide by the following generally-accepted rules of online etiquette:
1. Be polite, courteous, and respectful in your messages to others. Use language appropriate to school situations in any communications made through the Board's Education Technology . Do not use obscene, profane, vulgar, sexually explicit, defamatory, or abusive language in your messages.
 2. Never reveal names, addresses, phone numbers, or passwords of yourself or other students, family members, teachers, administrators, or other staff members while communicating on the Education Technology .

3. Do not transmit pictures or other information that could be used to establish your identity without prior approval of a teacher.
 4. Never agree to get together with someone you "meet" on-line without prior parent approval.
 5. Check e-mail frequently and delete e-mail promptly to avoid excessive use of the electronic mail disk space.
 6. Students should promptly disclose to their teacher or other school employee any message they receive that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable, especially any e-mail that contains sexually explicit content (e.g., pornography). Students should not delete such messages until instructed to do so by a staff member.
- H. Use of Education Technology to access, process, distribute, display or print child pornography and other material that are obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors is prohibited. As such, the following material is prohibited: material that appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, and excretion; material that depicts, describes or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or stimulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and material that lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors. Offensive messages and pictures, inappropriate text files, or files dangerous to the integrity of the Board's computers/network (e.g., viruses) are also prohibited.
- I. Malicious use of the Education Technology to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computer system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited. Students may not engage in vandalism or use the Education Technology in such a way that would disrupt its use by others. Vandalism is defined as any malicious or intentional attempt to harm, steal or destroy data of another user, school networks, or technology hardware. This includes but is not limited to uploading or creation of computer viruses, installing unapproved software, changing equipment configurations, deliberately destroying or stealing hardware and its components, or seeking to circumvent or bypass Network security and/or the Board's technology protection measures. Students also must avoid intentionally wasting limited resources. Students must immediately notify the teacher, the building principal, or the Superintendent if they identify a possible security problem. Students should not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an unlawful attempt to gain access (hacking).
- J. All communications and information accessible via the Internet should be assumed to be private property (i.e. copyrighted and/or trademarked). All copyright issues regarding software, information, and attributions of authorship must be respected.

- K. Downloading of information onto the school-owned equipment or contracted online education services is prohibited; all downloads must be to personal storage. If a student transfers files from information services and electronic bulletin board services, the student must check the file with a virus-detection program before opening the file for use. Only public domain software may be downloaded. If a student transfers a file or software program that infects the District's Education Technology with a virus and causes damage, the student will be liable for any and all repair costs to make the Education Technology once again fully operational.

- L. Students must secure prior approval from a teacher or the principal before joining a Listserv (electronic mailing lists) and should not post personal messages on bulletin boards or "Listservs."

- M. Students are prohibited from accessing or participating in online "chat rooms" or other forms of direct electronic communication (other than e-mail) without prior approval from a teacher. All such authorized communications must comply with these guidelines. Students may only use their school-assigned accounts/or personal email addresses when accessing, using or participating in real-time electronic communications for education purposes.

- N. Privacy in communication over the Internet and through the District's Education Technology is not guaranteed. To ensure compliance with these guidelines, the Board reserves the right to monitor, review, and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board's Education Technology. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using the Education Technology. The District reserves the right to access and inspect any facet of the Education Technology, including, but not limited to, computers, laptops, tablets, personal communication devices, networks or Internet connections, online educational services e-mail or other messaging or communication systems or any other electronic media within its technology systems or that otherwise constitutes its property and any data, information, e-mail, communication, transmission, upload, download, message or material of any nature or medium that may be contained therein.

A student's use of the Education Technology constitutes his/her waiver of any right to privacy in anything s/he creates, stores, sends, transmits, uploads, downloads or receives on or through the Education Technology and related storage medium and equipment.

Routine maintenance and monitoring, utilizing both technical monitoring systems and staff monitoring, may lead to discovery that a user has violated Board policy and/or the law. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that a user has violated Board

policy and/or law, or if requested by local, State or Federal law enforcement officials. Students' parents have the right to request to see the contents of their children's files, e-mails and records.

- O. Use of the Education Technology and any information procured from the Internet is at the student's own risk. The Board is not responsible for any damage a user suffers, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions. The Board is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. Information (including text, graphics, audio, video, etc.) from Internet sources used in student papers, reports, and projects should be cited the same as references to printed materials.

- P. Disclosure, use and/or dissemination of personally identifiable information of minors via the Education Technology is prohibited, except as expressly authorized by the minor student's parent/guardian on the "Student Education Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement Form."

- Q. Proprietary rights in the design of web sites hosted on the Board-owned or leased servers remains at all times with the Board.
 - 1. Since there is no central authority on the Internet, each site is responsible for its own users. Complaints received from other sites regarding any of the District's users will be fully investigated and disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

 - 2. Preservation of Resources and Priorities of Use: Computer resources are limited. Because space on disk drives and bandwidth across the lines which connect the District's Ed-Tech (both internally and externally) are limited, neither programs nor information may be stored on the system without the permission of the Technology Director. Each student is permitted reasonable space to store e-mail, web, and personal files. The Board reserves the right to require the purging of files in order to regain disk space. Students who require access to the Education Technology for class- or instruction-related activities have priority over other users. Students not using the Education Technology for class-related activities may be "bumped" by any student requiring access for class- or instruction-related purpose. The following hierarchy will prevail in governing access to the Ed-Tech:
 - a. Class work, assigned and supervised by a staff member.

 - b. Class work, specifically assigned but independently conducted.

- c. Personal correspondence (e-mail – checking, composing, and sending).
- d. Training (use of such programs as typing tutors, etc.).
- e. Personal discovery ("surfing the Internet").
- f. Other uses – access to resources for "other uses" may be further limited during the school day at the discretion of the building principal or Technology Director.

Game playing is not permitted unless under the supervision of a teacher.

Any individual who is aware of a violation of the Board policy or this guideline, including inappropriate on-line contact, content, or conduct, such as sexting, harassment or cyberbullying, should bring it to the attention of the school principal or Superintendent immediately.

P.L. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000

P.L. 110-385, Title II, Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

18 U.S.C. 1460

18 U.S.C. 2246

18 U.S.C. 2256

20 U.S.C. 6777, 9134 (2003)

20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (2003)

47 U.S.C. 254(h), (1), Communications Act of 1934, as amended (2003)

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