

POLICY: IIBG-R
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STUDENT INTERNET AND NETWORK SAFETY GUIDELINES

Guided Access

In order to match electronic resources as closely as possible to the approved District curriculum, District personnel will review and evaluate resources in order to offer “home pages” and menus of materials. In this manner, staff will provide developmentally appropriate guidance to students as they make use of telecommunications and electronic resources to conduct research and other studies related to the District curriculum. All students will be informed by staff of their rights and responsibilities as users of the District network prior to gaining access to that network, either as an individual user or as a member of a class or group.

Whenever possible, access to District information resources through the network will be designed in ways which point to those resources which have been reviewed and evaluated prior to use. While students may be able to move beyond those resources to others which have not been evaluated by staff, they shall be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to the learning objectives.

Independent Access

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Independent access to network services is provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required for minors. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Internet Rules and Regulations

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. E-mail access may be given to students for school-related assignments. Access to chat rooms will be blocked and instant messaging will be blocked as much as possible. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

Individual users of the District computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with District standards and will honor the agreements they have signed.

Network storage areas are considered property of the School District. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on District servers will always be private and the District reserves the right to inspect files.

The District uses a filtering system to limit student access to material that is harmful to students, obscene or disruptive to the educational or work environment, and to a lesser degree, high risk activities. The District reserves the right to block sites that do not enhance educational activities or development. The District shall be in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). No technology measure can block 100% of inappropriate content so the District emphasizes the importance of staff supervision in monitoring student use of technology.

Acceptable Use

1. Creation of files, projects, videos, web pages and podcasts and other projects using network resources in support of educational research;
2. Use of new Web tools: Online communication is critical to our students' learning of 21st Century Skills, and tools such as student e-mail, wikis, blogging and podcasting and other forms of online communication offer an authentic, real-world vehicle for student expression. Again, as educators, our primary responsibility to students is their safety. Hence, classroom blog, student protected e-mail, podcasts or other Web interactive use must follow all established Internet safety guidelines.
3. With parental permission, the online publication of original educational material, curriculum related materials and student work. Sources outside the classroom or school must be cited appropriately.

Unacceptable Use

The Students are expected to abide by the following general-accepted rules of network 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 computers/network. 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 Internet.
3. Do not transmit pictures or other information that could be used to establish your identity without prior approval of a teacher or parent.
4. Never agree to get together with someone you "meet" on-line without prior parent approval.
5. Students are prohibited from accessing or participating in on-line "chat rooms" or other forms of direct electronic communication (other than email) unless for educational or instructional purposes. All such uses must have prior approval from a teacher or administrator. All such authorized communications must comply with these guidelines.
6. Cyber bullying, hate mail, defamation, harassment of any kind, discriminatory jokes and remarks.

7. Employing another's password or some other user identifier that misleads message recipients into believing that someone other than you is communicating or otherwise using his/her access to the network or the Internet.

The following are also not permitted:

- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Employing the network for commercial purposes
- Copying any unauthorized software onto the network or onto an individual workstation
- Any unauthorized attempt to access student records
- Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information of minors

The District reserves the right to establish additional rules or take disciplinary action regarding the misuse of computers or networks that may not be anticipated in this policy.

Administrative Rules for Misuse

The prohibitions set forth in School Board policy and herein will govern all use of the District system. Student use of the system will also be governed by the code of student conduct and School Board policies and District regulations governing student discipline. The student will have his/her network/Internet access restricted and/or all computer use restricted or banned.