

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY

ALL STAFF

GENERAL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Technology Director will oversee the District's electronic communications system and work with any external organizations, as appropriate.

Commercial use of the District's network system is strictly prohibited.

Copyrighted software or data may not be placed on any system connected to the District's network system without the author's permission. Only the owner(s) or individuals the owner specifically authorizes may upload copyrighted material to the system.

Unless required to do so by law or by policies of the District or to investigate complaints regarding electronic mail that is alleged to contain defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, offensive, or illegal material, the Technology Director will not intentionally inspect the contents of electronic mail sent by a system user to an identified addressee or disclose such contents to anyone other than the sender.

SYSTEM ACCESS

All users of the District's network system will be provided with a username and password. The user is responsible for maintaining the security of his/her password. The Technology Director may require that passwords be changed periodically to maintain a reasonable level of security.

Any system user identified as a security risk or having a history of violations of District and/or campus computer use guidelines may be denied access to the District's network system.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Technology Department will:

1. Be responsible for disseminating and enforcing District policies and administrative regulations governing the use of the District's network system.
2. Ensure that system users have been provided appropriate training.
3. Be authorized to monitor or examine all system activities as deemed appropriate to ensure proper use of the system.
4. Be authorized to establish a retention schedule for electronic messages on the system.

5. Ensure that all users of the District's network system sign an agreement to abide by the District's policies and administrative regulations regarding such use. All such agreements will be maintained and filed in the appropriate office.

INDIVIDUAL USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The following rules will apply to all users of the District's electronic information/communication systems:

1. The individual in whose name a system account is issued will be responsible at all times for its proper use. If the user believes that his/her password has been compromised, it is the user's responsibility to report any inappropriate activities that resulted from the breach and to change the password on the account to re-establish account security. All security problems in the District's system must be reported to the Technology Department.
2. System users must not encourage or promote any activity prohibited by District policy or state or federal law.
3. Transmission of material, information, or software in violation of any District policy or local, state, or federal law is prohibited.
4. The system may not be used for illegal purposes, in support of illegal activities, or for any other activity prohibited by District policy.
5. System users may not use another person's system account. Attempting to log on to the District's network system as another user may result in cancellation of user privileges and/or other disciplinary action.
6. System users may not post messages or access materials that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. The Internet filtering process cannot filter ALL inappropriate material. The user is not permitted to access inappropriate material even if the filter would allow it.
7. A student may use real-time conference features such as talk/chat/Internet relay chat only as approved by the supervising teacher. All such activities must be monitored by the supervising teacher.
8. System users will not disable virus protection on any part of the system. Real-time virus protection must be in place at all times.
9. System users must not evade or otherwise manipulate the filtering process for Internet access that is maintained by the District. Use of peer-to-peer file sharing processes (on the local area network as well as across the Internet) are strictly prohibited without permission from the Technology Director.

10. System users must abide by copyright regulations concerning downloaded material as well as any software that is to be installed on a District computer.
11. System users who have Internet filter bypass authorization must maintain the security of such access and monitor all access to the system while the bypass is in place.
12. All users must submit a work order when requesting assistance.

VANDALISM PROHIBITED

Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy District equipment or materials, data of another user or the District's system, or any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet is prohibited. Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance will be viewed as violations of District policy and may be viewed as criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses. Any interference with the work of other users, including erasing, renaming or making files or disks unusable, with or without malicious intent, is construed as mischief and is strictly prohibited. Vandalism of this nature may result in the cancellation of system use privileges and could result in restitution for costs associated with system restoration, hardware, or software costs.

FORGERY PROHIBITED

Forgery or attempted forgery of electronic mail messages or other data on the network system is prohibited. Attempts to read, delete, copy or modify the electronic mail or other data of other system users or deliberate interference with the ability of other system users to send/receive electronic mail is prohibited.

INFORMATION CONTENT / THIRD PARTY SUPPLIED INFORMATION

System users and parents of students with access to the District's system should be aware that the use of the system may provide access to other electronic communications systems in the global electronic network that may contain inaccurate and/or objectionable material.

A student knowingly bringing prohibited materials into the school's electronic environment may be subject to suspension and/or revocation of privileges on the District's system and will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with District policy.

An employee knowingly bringing prohibited materials into the school's electronic environment will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with District policy.

System users may order services or merchandise from individuals and agencies not affiliated with the District but may be accessed through the District's system. All matters concerning merchandise and services ordered including, but not limited to, purchase terms, payment terms,

warranties and guarantees, and delivery are solely between the seller and the system user. The District makes no warranties or representation whatsoever with regard to any goods or services provided by the seller and the system user. The District makes no warranties or representation whatsoever with regard to any goods or services provided by the seller.

District employees and administration will not be party to any such transaction or be liable for any costs or damages arising out of either directly or indirectly, the actions or inactions of sellers.

TERMINATION / REVOCATION OF USER ACCESS

The District may suspend or revoke a system user's access to the District's services upon any violation of district policy and/or administrative regulation.

Prior to a suspension or revocation of system services, or as soon as practicable, the principal or other supervisor will inform the system user of the suspected violation and give him/her an opportunity to present an explanation, as follows:

1. A system user may appeal the suspension or revocation within seven calendar days.
2. The District coordinator or designee will conduct a hearing before a committee. The person who imposed the suspension or revocation will not be assigned to the committee hearing the appeal.

Termination of an employee's account will coincide with the effective date of resignation or termination of employment. Termination of student's access will be effective on the date the principal receives notice of student withdrawal or revocation of system privileges, or on a future date of so specified in the notice.

Policy CQ (Local)

AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS

Access to the District's technology resources, including the Internet, shall be made available to students and employees primarily for instructional and administrative purposes and in accordance with administrative regulations.

LIMITED PERSONAL USE

Limited personal use of the District's technology resources shall be permitted if the use:

1. Imposes no tangible cost on the District;
2. Does not unduly burden the District's technology resources; and
3. Has no adverse effect on an employee's job performance or on a student's academic performance.

USE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to the District's technology resources, including the Internet, shall be made available to members of the public, in accordance with administrative regulations. Such use shall be permitted so long as the use:

1. Imposes no tangible cost on the District; and
2. Does not unduly burden the District's technology resources.

ACCEPTABLE USE

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative regulations, guidelines, and user agreements consistent with the purposes and mission of the District and with law and policy. Access to the District's technology resources is a privilege, not a right. All users shall be required to acknowledge receipt and understanding of all administrative regulations governing use of the District's technology resources and shall agree in writing to allow monitoring of their use and to comply with such regulations and guidelines. Noncompliance may result in suspension of access or termination of privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with District policies. [See DH, FN series, FO series, and the Student Code of Conduct] Violations of law may result in criminal prosecution as well as disciplinary action by the District.

INTERNET SAFETY

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an Internet safety plan to:

1. Control students' access to inappropriate materials, as well as to materials that are harmful to minors;
2. Ensure student safety and security when using electronic communications;
3. Prevent unauthorized access, including hacking and other unlawful activities;
4. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students; and
5. Educate students about cyberbullying awareness and response and about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking Web sites and in chat rooms.

FILTERING

Each District computer with Internet access and the District's network systems shall have filtering devices or software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by the federal Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. Upon approval from the Superintendent or designee, an administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

MONITORED USE

Electronic mail transmissions and other use of the District's technology resources by students, employees, and members of the public shall not be considered private. Designated District staff shall be authorized to monitor the District's technology resources at any time to ensure appropriate use.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The District shall not be liable for users' inappropriate use of the District's technology resources, violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, users' mistakes or negligence, and costs incurred by users. The District shall not be responsible for ensuring the availability of the District's technology resources or the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any information found on the Internet.

RECORD RETENTION

A District employee shall retain electronic records, whether created or maintained using the District's technology resources or using personal technology resources, in accordance with the District's record management program. [See CPC]

SECURITY BREACH NOTIFICATION

Upon discovering or receiving notification of a breach of system security, the District shall disclose the breach to affected persons or entities in accordance with the time frames established by law.

The District shall give notice by using one or more of the following methods:

1. Written notice.
2. Electronic mail, if the District has electronic mail addresses for the affected persons.
3. Conspicuous posting on the District's Web site.
4. Publication through broadcast media.

Personal Use of Electronic Media Policy DH

Electronic media includes all forms of social media, such as text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (email), Web logs (Blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing Websites (e.g. YouTube), editorial comments posted on the Internet, and social network sites (e.g., Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, LinkedIn). Electronic media also includes all forms of telecommunication such as landlines, cell phones, and Web-based applications.

As role models for the district's students, employees are responsible for their public conduct even when they are not acting as district employees. Employees will be held to the same professional standards in their public use of electronic media as they are for any other public conduct. If an employee's use of electronic media interferes with the employee's ability to effectively perform his or her job duties, the employee is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. If any employee wishes to use a social network site or similar media for personal purposes, the employee is responsible for the content on the employee's page, including content added by the employee, the employee's friends, or members of the public who can access the employee's page, and for Web links on the employee's page. The employee is also responsible for maintaining privacy settings appropriate to the content.

An employee who uses electronic media for personal purposes shall observe the following:

- The employee may not set up or update the employee's personal social network page(s) using the district's computers, network, or equipment.

- The employee shall not use the district's logo or other copyrighted material of the district without express, written consent.
- The employee continues to be subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, and the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators, even when communicating regarding personal and private matters, regardless of whether the employee is using private or public equipment, on or off campus. These restrictions include:
 - Confidentiality of student records. (See Policy FL)
 - Confidentiality of health or personnel information concerning colleagues unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law. (See Policy DH(Exhibit))
 - Confidentiality of district records, including educator evaluations and private e-mail addresses. (See Policy GBA)
 - Copyright law (See Policy CY)
 - Prohibition against harming others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system. (See Policy DH (Exhibit))

Use of Electronic Media with Students Policy DH

A certified or licensed employee, or any other employee designated in writing by the superintendent or a campus principal, may communicate through electronic media with students who are currently enrolled in the district. The employee must comply with the provisions outlined below. All other employees are prohibited from communicating with students who are enrolled in the district through electronic media.

An employee is not subject to these provisions to the extent the employee has a social or family relationship with a student. For example, an employee may have a relationship with a niece or nephew, a student who is the child of an adult friend, a student who is a friend of the employee's child, or a member or participant in the same civic, social, recreational, or religious organization.

The following definitions apply for the use of electronic media with students:

- Electronic media includes all forms of social media, such as text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (email), Web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing Web sites (e.g. YouTube), editorial comments posted on the Internet, and social network sites (e.g., Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, LinkedIn). Electronic media also includes all forms of telecommunication such as landlines, cell phones, and Web-based applications.
- Communicate means to convey information and includes a one-way communication as well as a dialogue between two or more people. A public communication by an employee that is not targeted at students (e.g., a posting on the employee's personal social network page or a blog) is not a communication; however, the employee may be subject to district regulations on personal electronic communications. See Personal Use of Electronic Media, above. Unsolicited contact from a student through electronic means is not a communication.

- Certified or licensed employee means a person employed in a position requiring SBEC certification or a professional license, and whose job duties may require the employee to communicate electronically with students. The term includes classroom teachers, counselors, principals, librarians, paraprofessionals, nurses, educational diagnosticians, licensed therapists, and athletic trainers.

An employee who uses electronic media to communicate with students shall observe the following:

- The employee may use any form of electronic media except text messaging. Only a teacher, trainer, or other employee who has an extracurricular duty may use text messaging, and then only to communicate with students who participate in the extracurricular activity over which the employee has responsibility.
- The employee shall limit communications to matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities (e.g., for classroom teachers, matters relating to class work, homework, and tests; for an employee with an extracurricular duty, matters relating to the extracurricular activity).
- The employee is prohibited from knowingly communicating with students through a personal social network page; the employee must create a separate social network page ("professional page") for the purpose of communicating with students. The employee must enable administration and parents to access the employee's professional page. An employee may, however, make public posts to a social network site, blog, or similar application at any time.
- The employee does not have a right to privacy with respect to communications with students and parents. The employee continues to be subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, and the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators, including:
 - Compliance with the Public Information Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including retention and confidentiality of student records. (See Policies CPC and FL)
 - Copyright law (Policy CY)
 - Prohibitions against soliciting or engaging in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student. (See Policy DF)
- Upon request from administration, an employee will provide the phone numbers(s), social network site(s), or other information regarding the method(s) of electronic media the employee uses to communicate with any one or more currently-enrolled students.
- Upon written request from a parent or student, the employee shall discontinue communicating with the student through email, text messaging, instant messaging, or any other form of one-to-one communication.

An employee may request an exception from one or more of the limitations above by submitting a written request to his or her immediate supervisor.

Employee Name

Employee Signature

Date

