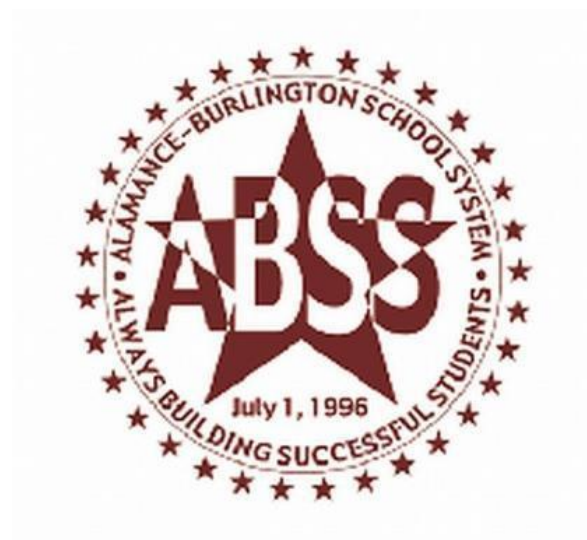


ABSS

Mobile Learning Handbook



Student/Parent Mobile Learning Handbook

2023 – 2024 Academic Year

Revised Summer 2023

Overview/Introduction

Alamance-Burlington Schools (ABSS) is committed to preparing students to be successful citizens in a global economy. The Mobile Learning Initiative will provide each student both school and home access to mobile computers. For this initiative to function appropriately and to develop students' responsibility and real world skills, ABSS has developed this Handbook and accompanying policies and procedures so students will use the technology as intended; take care of the equipment; and preserve the resources so all students may share the educational benefit of mobile technology.

Mobile technology is defined as the use of a district issued laptop with a laptop charging AC adapter/cable, and/or cellular hotspot with a hotspot charging AC adapter and cable. School issued computers are expected to be available for use at school and at home, while hotspots are only intended for use outside of school. **ABSS will not be supporting hotspots when services are not needed, as demonstrated by usage data or if funding is not available. Currently, students who need remote access are determined by principals or program leads.** Computers will be configured with wifi access to connect to the school network. These computers may be used with the hotspot if other broadband is unavailable outside of school. Students who have quality Internet connections available outside of school will not be issued a hotspot. ABSS cannot guarantee the quality of service, which is dependent on various factors including: how close you are to Verizon cellular service; the location of the hotspot in the home; interference from other accessible hotspots; and weather. Students who have other computers at home may not need to take a laptop home if it can be charged nightly at school. Schools and the district will assist and support families in determining need.

This handbook details student expectations for proper use of mobile technology at any time; both in or outside of school. **All students and parents/guardians who are being loaned mobile technology are expected to read, understand, and adhere to all guidance provided in this handbook. Adhering to this guidance will allow students to access educationally relevant digital resources, which support student learning. Failure to adhere to these guidelines or district policies may lead to damaged and unusable equipment. If it is determined that damage is due to failure to adhere to these guidelines, students may be subject to discipline in accordance with the student code of conduct and ABSS board policy 4300. Additionally, if repeated offenses occur, it may result in a change in time, duration, or location of permitted use. If equipment is in a constant state of damage, then it is not regularly available for use as an educational resource by the student assigned the device and the student may be provided alternative (non-technology) resources necessary to support learning.**

Students are provided connectivity to the Internet through which they can access educationally appropriate materials and resources. These resources may include access to other people, students, teachers, and content experts. Policies governing responsible behavior between adults and minors are applicable in online correspondence just as they would be with any in-person correspondence. Policies which apply include: [Policy Code: 4329/7311 Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited](#)

Additionally, students and teachers are provided with a means to share information across the Internet. Posting of information which would violate laws pertaining to access by other students will be treated in the same manner according to the consequences table for students and the regulations for employee conduct for staff.

Social networking for joint participation in projects and other school related activities can be valuable experiences which should be used with caution. The following activities are deemed unsafe practices and would constitute a violation of the [Technology Responsible Use Policy](#) :

- Using social media to bully or to threaten another person, student or otherwise
- Using social media to cheat on assignments that are confined to individual completion
- Using social media to carry on personal business
- Sharing of personal information about yourself or others on social networks
- Using social media to communicate false or misleading information
- Using social media to create relationships with strangers

Students may access the internet both on site at school and through home based or other internet access sites that have been provided through legal and approved means. General access to the Internet provides connectivity to some non-educational information and resources which by law have been deemed unacceptable for school attending children to access. Therefore, we provide filtered access that limits this exposure and which aims to protect students. School issued digital devices are protected by security measures which have been installed on the device. Any tampering or overriding of these measures violates the acceptable use policy.

Online Filtering of Access - Technology Protection Measure

A technology protection measure is a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access. Alamance-Burlington Schools implements a filter which limits against access to certain web sites by adults and students which do or may contain visual depictions that are obscene, constitute pornography, or - with respect to use of computers with Internet access by students - harmful to students. It may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes including access to educationally relevant online material. Moreover, ABSS may deploy a technical means for monitoring student access to the Internet by any connected device. Teachers and staff will personally monitor student activity on school premises as part of their normal oversight of the instructional environment. Regardless of the method of monitoring, students are ultimately accountable for the responsible use of computing and network resources.

- Students are prohibited from accessing inappropriate content on the Internet.
- ABSS addresses safety and security of students when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications through a variety of means that include storage and documentation of activity.
- ABSS prohibits unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by students online.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding students by staff is prohibited.
- Measures designed to restrict students' access to materials harmful to students shall be used by any and all staff and adults working with students.

Education, Supervision, and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Alamance-Burlington Schools staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Chief Technology Officer or designated representatives.

I. Deployment

Each, all, and every student enrolled in Alamance-Burlington School System will be provided the opportunity to responsibly use a computer. School staff will determine when the use of the computer is appropriate during the school day. The parent/guardian of the student will determine when the use of the computer is appropriate at home, when outside of the school day. At the issuance of a mobile learning device the parent, guardian, and student will be provided a copy of this Student/Parent Mobile Computer Agreement. *The parent and student must acknowledge with a signature that they have received, read, and understand the agreement in order for the student to be issued a mobile computer and/or hotspot.*

1. Prior to students being issued a mobile computer and/or hotspot for use at school and at home:

- Parents/guardians have been provided an opportunity to receive orientation to these policies and procedures and have been invited to ask questions and receive answers.
- Students must attend an orientation/training (mandatory).
- Parent/guardian and student must sign Student/Parent Mobile Device Agreement.
- Students without a signed agreement will be issued a computer to use at school when deemed appropriate by school staff.
- Any previously issued devices are returned, listed as lost, or listed as stolen.

2. Mobile computer and/or hotspot loan:

- Terms of Loan
 - Mobile Learning Devices (laptops and hotspots) are loaned items and remain the property of Alamance-Burlington Schools.
 - Alamance-Burlington Schools will loan a mobile computer and/or hotspot to students for use upon compliance with the following:

A. Student Orientation/Training session for all students

B. Parent/Guardian Orientation/Meeting session available for new students

C. A signed Student/Parent Mobile Device Agreement for all students

D. Additional Guidance:

1. Legal title to the property (mobile computer and/or hotspot) is and all times remains with the Alamance-Burlington Schools. A student's right of possession and use is limited to and conditioned upon full and complete compliance with the Board Policy - **3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use**
2. Observance of Copyright Laws and other Guidelines as outlined in this Student/Parent Mobile Learning Handbook.
3. Students may be subject to loss of privilege, disciplinary action and/or legal action in the event of intentional damage and/or violation of policies and guidelines as outlined in this Student/Parent Mobile Computer Handbook as well as in the ABSS Internet Use Guidelines.

4. A student's permission to use the mobile device terminates no later than the last day of the school year unless there is a reason for earlier termination by the District (e.g. drop-out, expulsion, and/or transfer to another school).
5. All students are required to turn in their issued mobile computer and/or hotspot by the last day of the academic school year or the last date of attendance to the school from which they were issued.
6. Attendance in summer school or special program use or special permission is required for students to use devices over the summer break.

3. Loss or Theft or Damage

1. This section established under district policy [#6550 Vandalism](#)
2. ABSS recognizes that the mobile device is a valuable asset entrusted to students for its care and maintenance during the school year.
 - Students are expected to protect the equipment from damage, loss and theft and to secure the equipment when it is in their possession to prevent damage, loss or theft.
 - No attempts should be made to repair equipment outside of the ABSS technology department. Device repair is the responsibility of the ABSS technology department only.
 - During the time the equipment is in the possession of the student, the student is responsible for any intentional damage, loss or theft which results from negligent handling.
 - All thefts must be reported to the appropriate law enforcement within 24 hours of discovery.
 - Device information should then and only then be reported to the technology department. The device can be disabled until found.
 - The district will send a report of the model and serial numbers of student mobile computers to local pawn shops and law enforcement agencies to assist in the event of loss or theft.

4. Revocation of Permission to Use Computer and/or Hotspot

ABSS reserves the right to revoke its permission to use the mobile device at any time if the student does not fully comply with all terms of this agreement.

5. Appropriation

Failure to return the property by designated deadlines and the continued use of the mobile device for non-school related purposes may be considered unlawful appropriation of ABSS property.

II. General Care of the Mobile Computer and/or Hotspot

1. Students are responsible for the mobile devices they have been issued. Mobile devices in need of repair or replacement must be reported to the teacher or media coordinator within 24 hours. It will be the responsibility of the teacher or media coordinator to place a ticket for technical support.
2. Each school will be provided with spare devices in order to issue an additional loaner for use if that is the appropriate next step. The school will determine the appropriateness of providing spare equipment. A limited number of computers and/or hotspots are also available for student loaner use. Loaner mobile devices are also covered by all rules and regulations as outlined in this document.
3. Use Guidelines to follow:
 - Always close the lid before moving your mobile computer.
 - For prolonged periods of inactivity, the computer should be shut down completely before closing the lid.

This will help to conserve the battery. Depending on the type of use, chromebook battery life is approximately 8 hours. Conserve wisely so that it is available for school related assignments.

- Storage and carrying of the mobile computer: Cases designed for the specific model of laptop may be obtained and used for added protection against damage. Please be aware that carrying the Chromebook in an overloaded backpack or carrying case will likely damage the mobile computer. Take precaution when placing the backpack/carrying case on a flat surface. Never sit on a mobile computer backpack/carrying case. If devices are stored in personal mobile computer bags or backpacks, the packs should have a padded mobile computer compartment.
- Liquids, food and other debris can damage the mobile device. DO NOT eat or drink while using the mobile computer. DO NOT keep food/drink or food/drink wrappers in a mobile computer bag/carrying case. Use of chromebooks is not allowed near eating or drinking in the cafeteria.
- Take extreme caution with the screen. The screens are very susceptible to damage from excessive pressure or weight. In particular, NEVER pick up the mobile computer by the screen or by placing your finger directly on the screen with any force.
- Never attempt repair or reconfiguration of the mobile computer. Under no circumstances are you to attempt to open or tamper with the internal components of the mobile computer. You should not remove any screws - doing so will render the warranty void. Issues should be reported to your teacher or the media center asap.
- Take care when inserting cords, cables and other removable storage devices to avoid damage to the mobile computer ports. Use only provided charger and cables. Do not use other chargers and cables.
- Personal stickers should not be adhered to the device. The device is ABSS property and contains necessary asset and labeling tags that are not to be removed. Any tampering of these labels is a violation of this agreement.
- Attempts to repair any damage can lead to additional damage and possible damage to personal property.

III. Cleaning Your Mobile Computer and/or Hotspot

Required maintenance on mobile computers will be done by the district technology support team.

However, students are encouraged to perform simple cleaning procedures as outlined below:

- Always disconnect the mobile computer from the power outlet before cleaning.
- Never use liquids on the mobile computer screen or keyboard.
- Clean the screen with a soft, lint-free cloth or use anti-static screen cleaners or wipes.
- Wash hands frequently when using the mobile computer to avoid buildup on the touch pad.
 - Hand lotions can affect the functionality of the touchpad. Grease and dirt can cause the cursor to jump around on the screen.
- Clean the touchpad with soft cloth. We have provided a mobile computer which has an antimicrobial surface to minimize exposure to and spread of disease.

IV. General Security

1. Never leave your mobile device unattended or unsecured. Mobile devices should be secured in a designated storage facility or a secured locker or near the student at all times.
2. Devices remaining at school must be secured prior to leaving school. This applies to the normal dismissal time,

early release times, early dismissal due to sports events, or for check out due to an appointment. Your school has determined the appropriate location for device drop off if early dismissal is necessary for an individual. Devices will also remain in the locked classroom during assemblies. Otherwise, unsupervised mobile computers will be confiscated by staff, and disciplinary actions may be taken.

3. Each mobile device has an identifying label(s) (i.e., barcoded serial number, media center barcode). Under no circumstances are you to modify or destroy these labels.

V. General Use of the Mobile Computer

1. Batteries and Charging
 - a. Students are expected to bring his/her mobile computer to all classes each day. Devices taken off school property will be the responsibility of the student to charge and to return to school fully charged for use the next school day. Power AC adapters will be assigned with the laptop and their use will also be governed by these expectations.
 - b. Be conscientious of your use of the device throughout the day in order to preserve battery life for actual academic use. Using the laptop to charge other devices (such as phones) can drain the battery and make the device unusable during a part of the school day.
 - c. Devices should only be charged in a manner that is safe to operate. Charging should not occur when the device is stored in a backpack or in a case not designed to be charged in the case. Do not charge near water, immediately after a liquid spill, or where the charging unit or port the charger is connected to is damaged. Any damage to these areas should be reported immediately and the device should not be used during this time. Students should avoid attempting repairs or taking it to a non-school technician for repair.
 - d. Students will receive disciplinary referral from their teacher for repeatedly failing to bring the mobile computer to any class ready to operate due to negligence, intentional damage, or failure to report accidental damage.
2. Always provide physical security and exercise good judgment in using your mobile device in areas which may lead to damage or theft.
3. Students should abide by school-based procedures for use of the mobile computer during lunch periods and in areas of the building used for eating and drinking.
4. The sound on the computer will be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes or if the student chooses to use earbuds or earphones for private listening. Personal, private hearing devices may be connected to the computer and used only with permission from the teacher, as warranted by the program being used, and in respect of other students' need for privacy and quiet.
5. With regard to online collaborative work, do not delete files that you did not create, that you do not recognize and are not authorized by the teacher for deletion. Deletion of files could result in a computer failure and will interfere with your ability to complete class work.
6. Student mobile computers will be subject to routine monitoring by teachers, administrators and technology staff.
7. Students will provide access to any mobile computer and/or accessories that they have been assigned upon the district's or school's request. An individual search of the mobile computer and other stored student files may be conducted if there is suspicion that laws, policies or guidelines have been violated. There is no expectation of

- privacy with either the use of or the contents on the mobile computer.
8. Students will be assigned space for storing educational files via Google Drive. This location should be used for backing up and storing files as directed by the teacher and/or decided by the class.
 9. Some storage space may be accessible from several student accounts for the purpose of collaborative work. Students should respect the collaborative nature of this space and shall not delete other users' work. Students should follow the protocol established in class for making edits and developing jointly created products.
 10. Students will ONLY use their assigned device. Allowing someone else to use a device assigned to you is considered negligent use. Students will be held accountable for any use of their account and should never give access to the account username or password to people other than parents/guardians or school staff upon request.
 11. Teachers may establish more restrictive policies or additional guidelines as necessary in maintaining classroom behavior in accordance with the school/district code of conduct. Students are expected to comply with district general Acceptable Use for Technology policies.

VII. Virus Protection

All mobile computers have virus protection measures.

VIII. Internet Access/Filtering

1. As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, a current filtering solution is maintained by the district for school and home use on this mobile computer. The district cannot guarantee that access to all inappropriate sites will be blocked. It is the responsibility of the user to follow guidelines for appropriate use of the network and the Internet. ABSS will not be responsible for any problems suffered while on the network or the Internet. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the user's own risk.
2. ABSS will provide internet service as needed via hotspot upon verification of need for home use. ABSS will provide filtering of the mobile computers and hotspots while connecting to the Internet from outside of school.

IX. Login Procedures

1. Students will be given unique ABSS login credentials. Always abide by district requirements for maintaining security of these credentials. These credentials are to be solely used for all school communications and access to ABSS provided programs.
2. DO NOT share passwords, usernames or other authentication credentials. Students are responsible for anything done using their login.

X. Copyright

Compliance with federal copyright law is expected of all. "Copyright" is legal protection for creative intellectual works, which is broadly interpreted to cover just about any expression of an idea. Text (including email and Web information), graphics, art, photographs, music and software are examples of types of works protected by copyright. Copying, distributing, downloading and uploading information on the Internet may infringe the copyright for that information. Even an innocent, unintentional infringement violates the law.

XI. Inappropriate/Unacceptable Use

Tier 1: Inappropriate Use

Including but not limited to:

- Using any browser other than those approved by the district
- Making unapproved changes or software installs to computers
 - Using computers not assigned to you when not approved (teachers may allow students to look on with

another student for instructional purposes only)

- Videoing or recording on school property is not permitted unless specific permission has been granted by an educator or administrator for educational reasons
- Messaging or chatting during class when not expressly permitted by the teacher through class agreements or when not related to an assignment

- Profanity
- Gaming if it is not related to an educational, classroom associated use

Tier 2: Unacceptable Use

Including but not limited to:

- Pornography (real life or cartoon) - Pornography can be a felony offense and will be turned over to authorities

- Possession
- Manufacturing - using a camera to create pictures/movies
- Distributing - sending/sharing with others
- Certain images of weapons
- Gang related files
- Bootleg movies or music or software
- Logging into a computer/application using someone else's login
- Cheating
- Using a computer to plan a fight, cause harm or commit a crime
- Profanity directed to the faculty or staff
- Threats and/or cyber bullying
- Using proxy sites to bypass district filtering
- Using cellular access and hotspots to bypass district filtering

XII. Care and Responsibility

Tier 1: Care and Responsibility: Neglect and Misuse

Including but not limited to:

- Closing objects between the lid and body of the mobile computer
- Leaving the mobile computer unattended
- Allowing someone else to use your assigned mobile computer
- Removing labels and identifying stickers on the mobile computer

Tier 2: Care and Responsibility: Intentional Misuse or Abuse

Including but not limited to:

- Intentional actions which are harmful or potentially harmful to the computer, hotspot, charger, and/or network.
- This includes screen damage, webcam damage, port damage, hinge damage, and picking keys off of the keyboard.

******Continuing Process for 2023-24 - Damage Responsibility: There is now no insurance option so there is no need to collect funds upfront.** Families will be charged for damages directly according to the chart below that is current as of July 2022. We attempt to keep costs as low as possible but, ABSS reserves the right to pass along increased replacement costs as they are increased to us. Secondary students will be issued a replacement chromebook

for in school use only until the damages are paid.

See current pricing at: <https://tinyurl.com/abssparts>

| Chromebook G5 PARTS | Chromebook G6 PARTS | Hotspot |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Whole Unit \$250 | Whole Unit \$250 | Whole Unit \$160 |
| USB-C Charger \$23 | Bezel \$22 | Charger \$35 |
| Keyboard \$27 | Bezel Trim Cover \$9 | |
| Touchpad \$23.50 | Touchpad \$10 | |
| LCD Cable \$3 | Touchpad Cable \$2 | |
| Camera \$26 | LCD Screen \$52 | |
| Camera Cable \$11 | Keyboard \$59 | |
| Bottom Case \$20 | Bottom Case \$27 | |
| Top Cover \$30 | Top Cover \$27 | |
| Bezel \$25 | USB-C Charger \$23 | |
| Motherboard \$85 | Motherboard \$85 | |
| Motherboard for G5-A - \$107 | | |

Internet Use Guidelines:

Internet access is provided to support the educational goals of Alamance-Burlington Schools. The privilege of Internet access is provided for all staff and students upon receipt of a signed Acceptable Use Agreement as found in this document and on the district webpage. The following guidelines are to support and further define the Internet use references found in the [3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use Policy](#)

The agreement must be on file with the school or appropriate department. This document will help maintain fair, objective and consistent expectations for students, staff, parents and administration.

1. The use of network resources must be in support of educational goals.
2. Teachers, administrators and staff must supervise student use of electronic information resources in a manner that is appropriate to the student's age and circumstances of use.
3. Users are prohibited from using district Internet access for product and/or service advertisement or political lobbying.
4. Users are responsible for their actions over the Internet and through electronic communications.
5. Unless security and authentication technology is in use, any information you submit to a system is being transmitted over the Internet "in the clear," with no protection from technology used to steal, view or impersonate confidential or personal information/data.
6. Attempts to bypass or disable any filtering and security devices are a violation of policy. This includes any attempt to "crack" passwords, operating systems or other network or Internet devices.
7. Requests to unblock filtered sites can be submitted according to district procedures.
8. Users experiencing trouble accessing network resources should follow school procedures for addressing the issue. Provide as much information as possible in order to help debug the problem.

**ABSS Mobile Learning Initiative
1:1 Computing Student/Parent Mobile Device Agreement**

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

Acceptable Use Policy Agreement

- I HAVE read and understand all the terms of the Student/Parent Mobile Computer Agreement.
- I HAVE discussed the Student/Parent Mobile Computer Handbook and Technology Responsible Use Policy with my child and assure they shall comply with all documented terms. I also acknowledge and understand that my child will have access to the Internet and may be subject to the risks associated with Internet Usage.
- I AGREE to allow my child to take the school-issued mobile computer home. I further agree that while at home the computing resources will be used as an educational tool.

Parent Initials _____

_____ **Date**

Student Acceptable Use Agreement

Student:

I have read (or it has been read to me), understand, and will abide by the Alamance-Burlington Schools guidelines regarding district technology responsible use (policy 3225/4312/7320). Should I commit a violation, my access privileges may be revoked, and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken in accordance with the type of violation.

Parent or Guardian:

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the above-referenced guidelines regarding district technology resource use. I understand that laptop/network/Internet access is intended for educational purposes. The Alamance-Burlington School System has taken precautions to restrict my child's access to questionable materials. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Alamance-Burlington Schools to restrict access to all questionable materials, and I will not hold the school system responsible if my child accesses or acquires such materials on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for any costs that my child may incur when using the Internet outside of class time. I am requesting a hotspot because my child attends the virtual school and they do not have sufficient internet access. I hereby give permission for my child to use laptop/network resources provided by the Alamance-Burlington Schools. I agree to release from liability, indemnify, and hold harmless the school, district, and district personnel against all claims, damages, and costs that may result from my child's use of district technology or the failure of any technology protection measures used by the district.

Terms of Agreement:

I hereby agree to the above statements. I also understand that the right to the use and possession of the property terminates the last calendar day of the current school year, unless terminated earlier by the school. I also understand if the property is not returned it will be **considered stolen**.

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

Date:

Student's Signature:

Date:

Do not write below this line (for school use only)

Chromebook Asset Tag# _____

Hotspot Asset Tag# _____

Damage Cost _____

Amount Paid _____ **Date** _____