

# IJNDB – USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES IN INSTRUCTION

*Policy*

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES IN INSTRUCTION

Code IJNDB Issued 06/13

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**Purpose: To establish the board's vision and the basic structure for the use of technology resources in instruction.**

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### **Internet acceptable use**

#### *Allendale County School District Internet policy*

Allendale County School District (ACSD) offers Internet access to students, teachers and staff. The Internet, an electronic highway, connects thousands of computers, computer networks, and individual subscribers around the world. All students and staff must be instructed on the appropriate use of our network. ACSD users will sign an “Internet Acceptable Use Agreement” prior to being given access to the Internet. This agreement will define the educational objectives and guidelines for use as well as unacceptable uses which will lead to revocation of access and possible legal action.

ACSD will install software to control, monitor and filter inappropriate material. Students under age 18 must have written parental permission before being given access to the Internet.

#### *Allendale County School District regulations*

Internet provides access to computer systems located all over the world. Users (and parents of users, if the user is under age 18) must understand that ACSD cannot control the content of information available. Some of the information is controversial and, sometimes, offensive. However valuable information and interaction accessible on this worldwide network outweigh the possibility that users may find inappropriate material. Allendale County School District does not condone the use of such materials and takes all reasonable precautions to filter access to these materials. The responsibilities accompanying freedom of speech and access to information will be taught. School employees, students and parents must be aware that access to the Internet will be withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or who do not follow the rules and regulations established by the Allendale County School District

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## **Accessing inappropriate sites**

Student Internet activities will be monitored by the district to ensure students are not accessing inappropriate sites that have visual depictions that include obscenity, child pornography or are harmful to minors. The school district will use technology protection measures to protect students from inappropriate access as required by the Child Internet Protection Act of 2000 (CIPA).

The district will provide reasonable notice of and at least one public hearing or meeting to address and communicate its Internet safety measures.

## **Reporting**

District and school computer technicians who are working with a computer and come across sexually explicit images of children must report this to local law enforcement. The report must include the name and address of the owner or person in possession of the computer.

## **Online behavior**

The district will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. The superintendent or his/her designee will develop a program to educate students on these issues.

## **Off-campus conduct**

Students, parents/legal guardians, teachers and staff members should be aware that the district may take disciplinary actions for conduct initiated and/or created off-campus involving the inappropriate use of the Internet or web-based resources if such conduct poses a threat or substantially interferes with or disrupts the work and discipline of the schools, including discipline for student harassment and bullying.

## **Acceptable use**

The Internet will be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical legal manner and must be in support of the educational objectives and the student behavior guidelines of the ACSD. Transmission of any material in violation of federal and state regulation is prohibited. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- violating copyright laws
- forwarding personal communications without the author's prior consent
- using threatening or obscene material
- distributing material protected by trade secret
- utilizing the Internet for commercial purposes
- providing political or campaign information

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- unauthorized access including “hacking” and other unlawful activities
- sharing confidential information on students or staff without appropriate approval
- Downloading or installing any unauthorized software or hardware on any system or district device.

## **Restrictions**

ACSD will install software that provides Internet control, monitoring and filtering. This software is the critical component of the Internet protection package since it allows valuable online Internet access while restricting access to specific unwanted categories including pornography, gambling, illegal drugs, online merchandising, hate speech, criminal skills, alternative journals and games. The program will be updated on a regular basis to keep the restriction list as current as possible.

## **Netiquette rules**

Users must abide by network etiquette rules. These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite; rudeness is never acceptable.
- Use appropriate language; do not swear, use vulgarities or other abusive or inappropriate language.
- Do not reveal personal addresses or phone numbers.
- Do not interrupt the use of the network.
- Assume that all communications and information accessible via the network is private property.
- Cyber-bullying will not be tolerated. Harassing, dissing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding and cyber-stalking are all examples of cyber-bullying. Do not be mean. Do not send e-mails or post comments with the intent of scaring, hurting or intimidating someone else. Engaging in these behaviors, or any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in severe disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyber-bullying can be a crime.

## **Privileges**

The use of the district’s technology resources is a privilege, not a right. With this privilege, there also is a responsibility to use the resources solely for educational purposes and not to access inappropriate materials unsuitable for students. Inappropriate

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use will result in limitation or cancellation of user privileges and possible disciplinary actions.

## **Disclaimer**

ACSD will not be responsible for any damages suffered, including the loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, service interruptions or inaccurate information. The user accepts personal responsibility for any information obtained via the Internet.

## **Security**

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Attempts to tamper with the program, access the system as any other user or share a password will result in cancellation of user privileges. Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private; system operators have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities and disciplinary action will follow.

## **Vandalism**

Vandalism will result in cancellation of user privileges and disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment and/or data or anyone connected with the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, uploading, creating or transmitting computer viruses.

Adopted 7/1/01; Revised 06/4/13

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## Legal references:

### A. Federal law:

1. 47 USC Section 254(h) - Children's Internet Protection Act.
2. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, Section 512 - Limitations on liability relating to material online.

### B. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 10-1-205 - Computers in public libraries; regulation of Internet access.
2. Section 16-3-850 - Encountering child pornography while processing film or working on a computer.
3. Section 16-15-305 - Disseminating, procuring or promoting obscenity unlawful; definitions; penalties; obscene material designated contraband.