

REVISED POLICY - VOL. 33, NO. 1

Edits by J. Schinker, 8 October 2014. Red text indicates suggested additions/edits. Green text indicates comments on the text, but should not be considered part of the policy.

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

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Technology has fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. As a result, educators are continually adapting their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to incorporate the vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet. The Board provides Educational Technology so that students can acquire the skills and knowledge to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. The Board of Education provides students with access to the Internet for limited educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services to enhance the instruction delivered to its students. The District's Internet system does not serve as a public access service or a public forum, and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its limited educational purpose.

Deleted: Advances in telecommunications and other related technologies have fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. Such changes are driving the need for educators to adapt their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to harness and utilize the vast, diverse, and unique resources available on the Internet. The Board of Education is pleased to provide Internet services to its students. The District's Internet system has a limited educational purpose. The District's Internet system has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The Board has the right to place restrictions on its use to assure that use of the District's Internet system is in accord with its limited educational purpose. Student use of the District's computers, network and Internet services ("Network") will be governed by this policy and the related administrative guidelines, and the Student Code of Conduct. The due process rights of all users will be respected in the event there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of the Network. Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using the Network (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity while on the Network).¶

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This policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct govern students' use of the District's personal communication devices (that is, according to Policy 5136, computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular/mobile telephones, smartphones, and any other web-enabled device), network, and Internet connection and online educational services ("Educational Technology" or "Ed-Tech").

[NOTE: Choose this option if Policy 7542 authorizes student to bring their own personal communication devices and use them to connect to Education Technology.]

~~(X) This policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct also govern students' use of their personal communication devices (that is, according to Policy 5136, computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular/mobile telephones, smartphones, and any other web-enabled device), when connected to the District's network, the District's Internet connection, and online educational services ("Educational Technology" or "Ed-Tech").~~

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~~The due process rights of all users will be respected in the event there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of the Education Technology. Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using the Ed-Tech (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity while on the network and Internet).~~

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Deleted: The Board encourages students to utilize the Internet in order to promote educational excellence in our schools by providing them with the opportunity to develop the resource sharing, innovation, and communication skills and tools that are essential to both life and work. The instructional use of the Internet will be guided by the Board's policy on instructional materials.¶

~~First, and foremost, [In the middle of page 2?] The Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its Educational Technology, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that may not have been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.~~

¶ The Internet is a global information and communication network that provides students and staff with access to up-to-date, highly relevant information that will enhance their learning and the education process. Further, the Internet provides students and staff with the opportunity to communicate with other people from throughout the world. Access to such an incredible quantity of information and resources brings with it, however, certain unique challenges and responsibilities.¶

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Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures, ~~which intended to protect against (e.g. filter or block) accidental~~ access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures will be used at all times, on all computers, that are or may be used by students. ~~may not be disabled at any time that students may be using the Education Technology, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to discipline.~~

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The Superintendent or Internet Filter Review Panel may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

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Parents are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services and/or resources on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. ~~Parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet. The Board supports and respects each family's right to decide whether access to the Internet is appropriate for its children. Parents who would like their children to be denied access to the Internet in school should notify the child's building principal in writing at the beginning of each school year for which they would like this access to be denied.~~

- Deleted:** Parents assume risks by consenting to allow their child to participate in the use of the Internet.
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Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking", "harvesting", "digital piracy", etc.), cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online, and
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors

~~Staff members shall provide instruction for their students. The district provides student instruction~~ regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above. Furthermore, ~~the District staff members~~ will monitor the online activities of students while at school to the extent practicable.

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~~Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions; or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.~~

Building principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of the Educational Technology. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. ~~All Internet users (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines.~~

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~~Students will be assigned a school email account that they are required to utilize for all school related electronic communications, including those to staff members and individuals and/or organizations outside the District with whom they are communicating for school-related projects and assignments. Further, as directed and authorized by their teachers, they shall use their school assigned email account when signing up/registering for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes. While we do assign accounts to students starting in Grade 3, we~~

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don't have any reason to explicitly require them to use these accounts at the exclusion of any others. This is different from staff members, who ARE required to use their assigned accounts for records retention reasons.]

Students and staff members are expected to exhibit responsible ~~for good~~ behavior on the Board's computers/network and the Internet just as they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not sanction any use of the Educational Technology that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

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[NOTE: If language about social media is added to Policy 7540, it is recommended that this language be added to this policy.]

~~Students shall not access social media for personal use from the District's network~~

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~~(+) ,but shall be permitted to access social media for educational use in accordance with their teacher's approved plan for such use.~~

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users of the Board's Educational Technology, are, personally responsible, and liable, both civilly and criminaly, for uses of the Ed-Tech, not authorized by this Board policy and its accompanying guidelines.

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The Board designates the Superintendent and ~~his/her designee~~ as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying guidelines as they apply to students' use of the ~~District's Educational Technology~~.

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P.L. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000
47 U.S.C. 254(h), (1), Communications Act of 1934, as amended (2003)
20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965,
as amended (2003)
18 U.S.C. 1460
18 U.S.C. 2246
18 U.S.C. 2256
20 U.S.C. 6777, 9134 (2003)
76 F.R. 56295, 56303