

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.

STAFF 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 of Education provides staff with access to the Internet for limited educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services to enhance the instruction delivered to its students and to facilitate the staff's work. 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. This policy and its related administrative guidelines and any applicable employment contracts and collective bargaining agreements govern the staffs' use of the District's computers, laptops, tablets, personal communication devices (as defined by Policy 7530.02), network and Internet connection and online educational services ("Educational Technology" or "Ed-Tech"). The due process rights of all users will be respected in the event there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of the Educational 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).

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 service to its staff. 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. Staff use of the District's computers, network and Internet services ("Network") will be governed by this policy and the related administrative guidelines, and any applicable employment contracts and collective bargaining agreements. 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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~~Staff members are expected to utilize Educational Technology, in order to promote educational excellence in our schools by providing students with the opportunity to develop the resource sharing, innovation, and communication skills and tools that are essential to both life and work. The Board encourages the faculty to develop the appropriate skills necessary to effectively access, analyze, evaluate, and utilize these resources in enriching educational activities. The instructional use of the Internet and online educational services will be guided by the Board's policy on Instructional Materials.~~

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~~The Internet is a global information and communication network that brings incredible education and information resources to our students. The Internet connects computers and users in the District with computers and users worldwide. Through the Internet, students and staff can access relevant information that will enhance their learning and the education process. Further, the Educational Technology 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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~~First, and foremost, 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.~~

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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 Superintendent, the technology protection measures may also 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 staff members to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures, ~~may not be disabled at any time that students may be using the Educational Technology, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act.~~ will be used at all times on all computers that are or may be used by students. Any staff member who attempts to disable the technology protection measures without express written consent of an appropriate administrator will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. [This last sentence is a change from current language, even though it wasn't highlighted as such]

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The Superintendent or Internet Filter Review Panel may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites 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. (~~X~~) The Superintendent or his/her designee may also disable the technology protection measures to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

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Staff members will participate in professional development programs in accordance with the provisions of law and this policy. Training shall include:

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

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SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPERTY
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Furthermore, ~~staff members shall~~ the District provides student instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above, and ~~staff members~~ the District will monitor students' online activities 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.~~

The disclosure of personally identifiable information about students online is prohibited.

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 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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~~[X] Staff will be assigned a school email address that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to students and their parents and other staff members.~~

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~~[X] With prior approval from the Superintendent or _____, Staff may direct students who have been issued school-assigned email accounts to use those accounts when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the students for educational purposes under the teacher's supervision.~~

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Staff members are ~~expected to exhibit responsible for good behavior when using the Board's Educational Technology~~ 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.

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~~**[NOTE: If language about social media is added to Policy 7540, choose the appropriate option to match that language]**~~

~~[] Staff members shall not access social media for personal use on the District's network, and shall access social media for educational use only after submitting a plan for that educational use and securing the principal's approval of that plan in advance.~~

~~[] Staff members shall not access social media from the District's network for either personal or educational use.~~

General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not sanction any use of the Internet that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines. 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 criminally,~~ for uses of the ~~Ed-Tech, not authorized by this 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 staff members' use of the ~~District's Educational Technology.~~

Optional

[] Social Media Use

An employee's personal or private use of social media, ~~such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, blogs, etc.~~, may have unintended consequences. While the Board respects its employees' First Amendment rights, those rights do not include permission to post inflammatory comments that could compromise the District's mission, undermine staff relationships, or cause a substantial disruption to the school environment. This warning includes staff members' online conduct that occurs off school property including from the employee's private computer. Postings to social media should be done in a manner sensitive to the staff member's professional responsibilities.

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In addition, Federal and State confidentiality laws forbid schools and their employees from using or disclosing student education records without parental consent. See Policy 8330. Education records include a wide variety of information; posting personally identifiable information about students is not permitted. Staff members who violate State and Federal confidentiality laws or privacy laws related to the disclosure of confidential student or employee information may be disciplined.

Staff members retain rights of communication for collective bargaining purposes and union organizational activities.

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