

4012
Staff Internet and Computer Use

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching and learning skills. The following procedures and guidelines are intended to ensure appropriate use of the Internet at the school by the district's faculty and staff.

I. Staff Expectations in Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use

1. Staff shall be restricted to use the Internet to conduct research for instructional purposes.
2. Staff may use the Internet for school-related e-mail communication with fellow educators, students, parents and patrons.
3. Staff may use the Internet in any other way which serves a legitimate educational purpose.
4. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on the Internet is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter on the Internet.

B. Unacceptable Use

1. Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material.
2. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities on school computers, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.
3. Staff shall not use chat rooms or instant messaging.

4. Staff shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems, such as, but not limited to, Aimster and Freenet.
5. Staff shall not access social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter on school computers or during school time unless such access is for an educational activity which has been preapproved by the staff member's immediate supervisor. This prohibition extends to posting on social networking sites using personal electronic devices during a staff member's lunch or planning period.
6. The only political advocacy allowed by staff shall be lobbying via e-mail on educational-related issues. Before engaging in this sort of activity, staff must obtain the consent of the superintendent or designee.
7. Staff shall not publish web pages without the written approval of the administration. Any web page published by staff members must be linked to the district's web site. Staff are cautioned that publication of student work or personality-identifiable student information on the Internet may violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act. They must obtain the written consent of the superintendent or designee prior to posting any student-related information on the Internet.
8. Staff shall not share their passwords with anyone, including students, volunteers or fellow employees.

II. Enforcement

A. Methods of Enforcement

The district owns the computer system and monitors e-mail and Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Staff members have no right of privacy in any electronic communications or files, and these are subject to search and inspection at any time.

1. The district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some sites that are not in accordance

with the district's policy. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.

2. Due to the nature of technology, the filter may sometimes block pages that are appropriate for staff research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measures that blocks or filters Internet access for staff access to a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
3. The district will monitor staff use of the Internet by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of this policy.

B. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in that staff member facing:

1. Discharge from employment or such other discipline as the administration and/or the board deem appropriate;
2. The filing of a complaint with the Commissioner of Education alleging unprofessional conduct by a certified staff member;
3. When appropriate, the involvement of law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting wrongdoing.

Adopted on: **November 15, 2010**

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____