Related Entries: (Not identified at this time)

Acceptable Use Policy Governing Internet and Technology Access

The principal of a school or the supervisor of a department shall be responsible for ensuring that the following procedures are followed for governing Internet and technology access. Failure to adhere to these regulations shall result in suspension and/or revocation of access to District information resources pending formal investigation and could result in termination of employment (staff) or suspension/expulsion (student) from the School District.

(1) The School District of Lee County provides technology resources to its students and staff for educational and administrative purposes. The use of these technology resources is a privilege, not a right and, as such, is subject to revocation and appropriate discipline by the School District administration at any time for abusive conduct or violation of any of the requirements of this policy.

(2) All users are prohibited from:

(a) Deliberate access or transmission of obscene, indecent, abusive, defamatory or otherwise offensive material in any form including improper use of telecommunication services or technology, and posting inappropriate information on the web, during or after school/work hours that may interfere with the school/work environment.

(b) Transmission of material endorsing or opposing any candidate for political office. Communications by the Board's legislative liaison to provide information and encourage action on pending legislation affecting the School District and the forwarding of such communications are not included in this prohibition, if approved by the Superintendent or designee.

(c) Transmission of religious material.

(d) Deliberate or malicious attempts to harm, destroy, or steal data on any system on the network and/or Internet.

(e) Unauthorized installation, storage or distribution of copyrighted software or materials on any School District electronic information system. All users of telecommunication and network resources shall adhere to current copyright law.

(f) Reposting personal communications without the author's prior consent.

(g) Using the network for personal financial gain, or any commercial or illegal activity. The Superintendent or designee may approve commercial advertising on the District website and through e-mail distribution to all staff when such advertising is not obscene, indecent, abusive, or defamatory and does not advertise a product or service appropriate only for adult use. Additionally, the advertiser must provide a benefit to the school or District or school or District employee. The school principal may approve advertising on the school website and through e-mail distribution to all school staff on the same terms. No pop-up advertising will be allowed on the school or District website.

(h) Deliberate spread of computer "viruses."

(i) Attaching/installing/adding personally owned software, computer and/or other electronic devices to any District network without written permission from District administration.

(3) As a condition of use of District information resources, all users understand and agree with the following:

(a) The District complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and in doing so ensures that during the school day and school activities:

1. Access by users to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web is not permitted under any circumstances. For all users, "inappropriate matter" includes child pornography and visual depictions of obscenity. For users under 17 years of age, "inappropriate" also includes matters harmful to minors as defined by CIPA.

2. The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication is protected.

3. Unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors is prohibited.

4. Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of any personal information regarding minors are prohibited.

5. Technology protection measures are in place, which are designed to restrict user access to inappropriate matters.

6. All students receive instruction regarding appropriate on-line behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response.

(b) The District has the right to review any materials stored in District computers and electronic systems. Any right of privacy that users of District information resources may have in and to such material is waived. All information transmitted through the telecommunication and network resources of the District are considered District property.

(c) The District can edit or remove any materials, which it believes may be unlawful, obscene, indecent, abusive or in any way objectionable.

(d) The use of the Internet is for educational purposes only. Students are not allowed to access the Internet without supervision. The District provides such supervision only during the school day and school activities. Parents/ guardians are responsible for such supervision outside the school day and school activities.

(e) All information and services contained on the District computers are placed there solely for general educational purposes.

(f) System passwords are the responsibility of each individual user. Passwords shall not be shared with others and shall be kept secure at all times. Failure to secure passwords shall result in the revocation of network access.

(4) Any attempt to damage or impair the information resource network of the District, such as e-mail bombardment, transmission of chain letters, virus hoaxes, “spoofing” of header or identifiable information regarding the sender, hacking or “sniffing,” shall result in revocation of network access and may subject the user to disciplinary and/or legal action.

(a) Users of telecommunication and network resources shall conduct themselves in an ethical and legal manner.

(b) Only the person authorized to have access by the School District shall have access to District resources such as e-mail, mainframe and other electronic information resources.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.42, 1001.43, F.S. and 20 USC Section 9134

Adopted: 1/6/09
Revised: 3/6/12