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7540.04 - STAFF TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

Technology ~~directly affects~~ ~~has fundamentally altered~~ the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. ~~Educators are expected to continually adapt~~ ~~As a result, educators are continually adapting~~ their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to incorporate the ~~latest technologies~~ ~~vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet.~~ The Board of Education provides ~~District Information & Technology Resources (as defined by Bylaw 0100) (collectively, "District Information & Technology Resources")~~ ~~Technology and Information Resources (as defined by Bylaw 0100)~~ to support the educational and professional needs of its staff and students. The Board provides staff with access to the Internet for ~~limited~~ educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services/apps to enhance the instruction delivered to its students and to facilitate the staff's work. The District's ~~computer network and~~ 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~~ ~~stated~~ educational purpose.

The Board regulates the use of District ~~Technology and Information~~ ~~Information & Technology~~ Resources by principles consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal laws, and the District's educational mission. This policy and its related administrative guidelines, Policy 7544 and AG 7544 and any applicable employment contracts and collective bargaining agreements govern the staffs' use of ~~District~~ ~~the District's Technology and Information~~ ~~Information & Technology~~ Resources and ~~staff's~~ personal communication devices when they are connected to the District's ~~Information & Technology Resources, including online educational services/apps, regardless of whether such use takes place on or off school property (see Policy 7530.02).~~ ~~computer network, Internet connection and/or online educational services/apps, or when used while the staff member is on Board-owned property or at a Board-sponsored activity (see Policy 7530.02).~~

~~Users are required to refrain from actions that are illegal (such as libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, and the like) or unkind (such as personal attacks, invasion of privacy, injurious comment, and the like). Because its Technology Resources are not unlimited, the Board has also instituted restrictions aimed at preserving these resources, such as placing limits on the use of bandwidth, storage space, and printers.~~

~~Staff members~~ ~~Users~~ have no right or expectation to privacy when using District ~~Technology and Information~~ ~~Information & Technology~~ Resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, ~~messages~~ e-mails, and records of their online activity ~~when using the District's computer network and/or Internet connection~~).

Staff members are expected to ~~use~~ ~~utilize~~ District ~~Technology and Information~~ ~~Information & Technology~~ Resources 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/apps will be guided by Board Policy 2520 - Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment.

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, District ~~Information & Technology~~ Resources provide students and staff with the opportunity to communicate with ~~people~~ ~~other people from~~ throughout the world. Access to such an incredible quantity ~~and diversity~~ of information and resources brings with it, however, certain unique challenges and responsibilities.

While the Board uses various technologies to limit the use of District Information & Technology Resources to only use/access online services/apps and resources that have been pre-approved for the purpose of instruction, study, and research related to the curriculum, it is impossible to prevent users from accessing and/or coming in contact with online content that has not been pre-approved for use by students of certain ages. It is no longer possible for educators and community members. The Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its Technology Resources, 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 all 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) when significant portions of students' education take place online or through the use of online educational services/apps, 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.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures that protect against (e.g., filter or block) 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 (CIPA). 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 District Information & Technology Resources, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act CIPA. Any staff member who attempts to disable the technology protection measures without the express written consent of an appropriate administrator will be disciplined subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The Superintendent or the District Technology Coordinator Technology Director may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services/apps containing appropriate material if access to such sites has been inappropriately mistakenly, improperly, or inadvertently blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether the 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. The Superintendent or the District Technology Coordinator Technology Director may also disable the technology protection measures to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Principals are responsible for providing training so that staff under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

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", "harvesting", "digital piracy", "data mining", etc.), cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students or staff online; and
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally-identifiable information regarding minors.

Furthermore, staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above, and staff members will monitor students' online activities while at school. Staff members shall provide guidance and instruction to their students regarding the appropriate use of District Information & Technology Resources and online safety and security as specified above. Additionally, such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior including interacting with others on social media, including in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. Further, staff members shall monitor students' online activities while the students are at school.

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 District Technology Resources. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media

~~including in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. All users of District Technology~~ All staff members who use District Information & Technology Resources are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines. See Form 7540.04 F1.

In order to keep District Information & Technology Resources operating in a safe, secure, efficient, effective, and beneficial manner to all users, staff members are required to comply with all District-established cybersecurity procedures (x) including, but not limited to, the use of multi-factored authentication (MFA), for which they have been trained. Principals are responsible for providing such training on a regular basis and measuring the effectiveness of the training.

Staff will be assigned a District-provided school e-mail address that they are required to utilize use for all school-related electronic communications, including those to students, parents and other constituents, fellow staff members, and vendors or individuals seeking to do business with the District.

With prior approval from the Superintendent or Technology Director, staff may direct students who have been issued school-assigned e-mail accounts to use those accounts when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services/apps, that the students will utilize, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the students for educational purposes under the teacher's supervision.

Staff members are responsible for good behavior when using District ~~Technology and Information~~ Information & Technology Resources - i.e., behavior comparable to that expected when they are in physical classrooms and school buildings and at school-sponsored events. ~~Because communications classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications~~ on the Internet are often public in nature, general rules for professional behavior and communication apply. The Board does not approve any use of its ~~District Information & Technology~~ Technology and Information Resources that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines and Policy 7544 and its accompanying guideline.

Staff members use of District ~~Information & Technology Resources~~ technology resources to access or use social media is to be consistent with Policy 7544 and its accompanying guideline.

An employee's personal or private use of social media 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 personal communication device. Postings to social media should be done in a manner sensitive to the staff member's professional responsibilities.

~~General school rules for behavior and communication apply.~~

Use of Artificial Intelligence/Natural Language Processing Tools

Staff are permitted to use Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools (collectively, "AI/NLP tools") to accomplish their job responsibilities so long as the use is ethical, responsible, and does not violate any provisions of this policy - e.g., it does not infringe on students' or staff members' privacy rights, violate their duty to maintain confidentiality related to personally identifiable information, etc.).

With respect to students, it is the Board's policy that they are required to rely on their own knowledge, skills, and resources when completing school work. In order to ensure the integrity of the educational process and to promote fair and equal opportunities for all students, except as outlined below, students are prohibited from using AI/NLP tools to complete school work. The use of AI/NLP tools without the express permission/consent of a teacher is considered to undermine the learning and problem-solving skills that are essential to students' academic success and that the staff is tasked to develop in each student. Consequently, students are encouraged to develop their own knowledge, skills, and understanding of course material rather than relying solely on AI/NLP tools, and they are expected to ask their teachers when they have questions and/or need assistance. Students' unauthorized use of AI/NLP tools is considered a form of plagiarism and any student found using such tools without permission or in a prohibited manner will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Notwithstanding the preceding, students are allowed to use AI/NLP tools in the school setting if they receive prior permission/consent from their teacher, so long as they use the AI/NLP tools in an ethical and responsible manner. Teachers have the discretion to authorize students to use AI/NLP tools for the following uses:

- A. Research assistance: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students quickly and efficiently search for and find relevant information for their school projects and assignments.
- B. Data Analysis: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students to analyze, understand, and interpret large amounts of data, such as text documents or social media posts. This can be particularly useful for research projects or data analysis assignments – e.g., scientific experiments and marketing research.
- C. Language translation: AI/NLP tools can be used to translate texts or documents into different languages, which can be helpful for students who are learning a new language or for students who are studying texts written in a different language.
- D. Writing assistance: AI/NLP tools can provide grammar and spelling corrections, as well as suggest alternative word choices and sentence structure, to help students improve their writing skills.
- E. Accessibility: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students with disabilities access and understand written materials. For example, text-to-speech software can help students with specific learning disabilities or visual impairments to read texts, and AI-powered translation tools can help students with hearing impairments understand spoken language.

As outlined above, under appropriate circumstances, AI/NLP tools can be effectively used as a supplement to and not a replacement for traditional learning methods. Consequently, with prior teacher permission/consent, students can use AI/NLP tools to help them better understand and analyze information and/or access course materials. If a student has any questions about whether they are permitted to use AI/NLP tools for a specific class assignment, they should ask their teacher.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of District ~~Information & Technology~~ ~~Technology and Information~~ Resources that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

The Board designates the Superintendent and the ~~District Technology Coordinator~~ ~~Technology Director~~ as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying guidelines as they apply to staff members' use of District ~~Information & Technology~~ ~~Technology and Information~~ Resources.

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 ~~and/or laws or~~ privacy laws related to the disclosure of ~~student or employee personally identifiable confidential student or employee~~ information may be disciplined.

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

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Legal

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
 18 U.S.C. 1460
 18 U.S.C. 2246
 18 U.S.C. 2256
 20 U.S.C. 6777, 9134 (2003)
 47 C.F.R. 54.500 - 54.523

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