

## **Student Use of the Internet and Electronic Communications**

The Internet and electronic communications (email, chat rooms and other forms of electronic communication) have vast potential to support curriculum and student learning. The Board of Education believes they should be used in schools as a learning resource to educate and to inform.

Use of the Internet and electronic communications require students to think critically, analyze information, write clearly, use problem-solving skills and hone computer and research skills that employers demand. Use of these tools also encourages an attitude of lifelong learning and offers an opportunity for students to participate in distance learning activities, ask questions of and consult with experts, communicate with other students and individuals and locate material to meet educational and personal information needs.

The Internet and electronic communications are fluid environments in which students may access materials and information from many sources, including some that may be harmful to students. While it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate or come into contact with, the district shall take reasonable steps to protect students from accessing material and information that is obscene, child pornography or otherwise harmful to minors, as defined by the Board. Students shall take responsibility for their own use of district technology devices to avoid contact with material or information that may be harmful to minors.

### **Blocking or filtering obscene, pornographic and harmful information**

Technology that blocks or filters material and information that is obscene, child pornography or otherwise harmful to minors, as defined by the Board, shall be installed on each technology device provided by the district that allows for access to the Internet by a minor, from any location. Students shall report access to material and information that is obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors or otherwise in violation of this policy to the supervising staff member. If a student becomes aware of other students accessing such material or information, he or she shall report it to the supervising staff member.

### **No expectation of privacy**

District technology devices are owned by the district and are intended for educational purposes at all times. Students shall have no expectation of privacy when using the Internet or electronic communications. The district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store (at any time and without prior notice) all usage of district technology devices, including all Internet and electronic communications access and transmission/receipt of materials and information. All material and information accessed/received through district technology devices shall remain the property of the school district.

### **Unauthorized and unacceptable uses**

Students shall use district technology in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner.

Because technology and ways of using technology are constantly evolving, every unacceptable use of district technology devices cannot be specifically described in policy. Therefore, examples of unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following.

*[Note: The Board has discretion to determine which uses are unacceptable. The following list provides examples the Board may wish to consider.]*

No student shall access, create, transmit, retransmit or forward material or information:

- that promotes violence or advocates destruction of property including, but not limited to, access to information concerning the manufacturing or purchasing of destructive devices or weapons
- that is not related to district education objectives
- that contains pornographic, obscene or other sexually oriented materials, either as pictures or writings, that are intended to stimulate erotic feelings or appeal to prurient interests in nudity, sex or excretion
- that harasses, threatens, demeans, or promotes violence or hatred against another person or group of persons in violation of the district's nondiscrimination policies
- for personal profit, financial gain, advertising, commercial transaction or political purposes
- that plagiarizes the work of another without express consent
- that uses inappropriate or profane language likely to be offensive to others in the school community
- that is knowingly false or could be construed as intending to purposely damage another person's reputation
- in violation of any federal or state law or district policy, including but not limited to copyrighted material and material protected by trade secret
- that contains personal information about themselves or others, including information protected by confidentiality laws
- that impersonates another or transmits through an anonymous remailer
- that accesses fee services without specific permission from the system administrator

## Security

Security on district technology devices is a high priority. Students who identify a security problem while using the Internet or electronic communications must immediately notify a system administrator. Students should not demonstrate the problem to other users. Logging on to the Internet or electronic communications as a system administrator is prohibited.

Students shall not:

- use another person's password or any other identifier
- gain or attempt to gain unauthorized access to district technology devices and systems
- read, alter, delete or copy, or attempt to do so, electronic communications of other system users

Any user identified as a security risk, or as having a history of problems with technology, may be denied access to the Internet and electronic communications.

## Safety

In the interest of student safety, the district shall educate students [*Optional language:* and parents] about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response, interacting on social networking sites and in chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Students shall not reveal personal information, such as home address or phone number, while using the Internet or electronic communications. Without first obtaining permission of the supervising staff member, students shall not use their last name or any other information that might allow another person to locate him or her. Students shall not arrange face-to-face meetings with persons met on the Internet or through electronic communications.

## Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in school disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, and/or legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious or intentional attempt to harm, destroy, modify, abuse or disrupt operation of any network within the school district or any network connected to the Internet, operation of any form of electronic communications, the data contained on any network or electronic communications, the data of another user, usage by another user, or district-owned technology device. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses and the use of encryption software.

## Unauthorized content

Students are prohibited from using or possessing any software applications, mobile apps or other content that has been downloaded or is otherwise in the user's possession without appropriate registration and payment of any fees.

### **Assigning student projects and monitoring student use**

The district will make reasonable efforts to see that the Internet and electronic communications are used responsibly by students. Administrators, teachers and staff have a professional responsibility to work together to monitor students' use of the Internet and electronic communications, help students develop the intellectual skills needed to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and to evaluate and use information to meet their educational goals. Students shall have specifically defined objectives and search strategies prior to accessing material and information on the Internet and through electronic communications.

Opportunities shall be made available on a regular basis for parents to observe student use of the Internet and electronic communications in schools.

All students shall be supervised by staff while using the Internet or electronic communications at a ratio of at least one staff member to each 30 students. Staff members assigned to supervise student use shall have received training in Internet and electronic communications safety and monitoring student use.

### **Student use is a privilege**

Use of the Internet and electronic communications demands personal responsibility and an understanding of the acceptable and unacceptable uses of such tools. Student use of the Internet and electronic communications is a privilege, not a right. Failure to follow the use procedures contained in this policy shall result in the loss of the privilege to use these tools and restitution for costs associated with damages, and may result in school disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, and/or legal action. The school district may deny, revoke or suspend access to district technology or close accounts at any time.

Students and parents/guardians shall be required to sign the district's Acceptable Use Agreement annually before Internet or electronic communications accounts shall be issued or access shall be allowed.

### **School district makes no warranties**

The school district makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, related to the use of district technology devices, including access to the Internet and electronic communications services. Providing access to these services does not imply endorsement by the district of the content, nor does the district make any guarantee as to the accuracy or quality of information received. The district shall not be responsible for any damages, losses or costs a student suffers in using the Internet and electronic communications. This includes loss of data and service interruptions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet and electronic communications is at the student's own risk.

Adopted: March 11, 1999  
Revised: August 11, 2009  
Revised: September 10, 2013

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. 6751 *et seq.* (*Enhancing Education Through Technology Act of 2001*)  
47 U.S.C. 254(h) (*Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000*)  
47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F (*Universal Support for Schools and Libraries*)  
C.R.S. [22-87-101](#) *et seq.* (*Children's Internet Protection Act*)

CROSS REFS.: [AC](#), Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity  
[EGAEA](#), Electronic Communication  
[JB](#), Equal Educational Opportunities

## Student Use of the Internet (Acceptable Use Agreement)

*In order to provide for the appropriate use of the Internet in keeping with Board of Education policy, the following "Acceptable Use Agreement" has been developed. (A copy of this agreement will be distributed to students and parents/guardians for signature before a student is issued an Internet account.)*

### Terms and conditions

All computers having Internet access must be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this Agreement will result in revocation of access privileges.

1. Acceptable use: The use of your Internet account must be consistent with the educational objectives of the Custer County School District. Students may communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. copyrighted material (no plagiarism)
  - b. threatening or obscene material
  - c. material protected by trade secret
  
2. Unacceptable use of school computers includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. personal email transactions
  - b. using any game site not approved as educational by a teacher
  - c. social websites (i.e.: facebook, my space, twitter, etc.)
  - d. any lewd or pornographic material
  - e. buying, selling, advertising, or otherwise conducting business, unless approved and under supervision of teacher
  
3. Privilege: The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator(s) will deem what is inappropriate use and that decision is final. The system administrator(s) may close an account at any time, as required. The administration, faculty and staff may request the system administrator to deny, revoke or suspend specific user accounts.
  
4. No warranty: The Custer County School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Custer County School District will not be responsible for any damages suffered in using the Internet. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries or service interruptions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. The Custer County School District specifically denies any

responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through this service.

5. **Security:** Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a system administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk, or as having a history of problems with other computer systems, may be denied access to the Internet. Students may not distribute private information about others or themselves.
6. **Vandalism:** Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
7. **Communication:** Students are expected to immediately report any violation to internet use policy to supervising teacher. Students must also immediately report any threatening, intimidating or discomforting material to a teacher.

I understand and will abide by the above Agreement. I further understand that a violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

***Your signature on the Acceptable Use Agreement is legally binding and indicates that the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.***

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian**

***If the user is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian also must sign this Agreement.***

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read and understand the Acceptable Use Agreement. I will read and/ or explain this Agreement and Policies to my child. I agree that my child will be expected to abide by all policies. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and that the Custer County School District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. I also recognize, however, that it is impossible for the Custer County School District to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold the District responsible for materials acquired on the network. School network administrators and their authorized employees monitor

the use of information technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline or security of any student or other person, or to protect property. They may also use this information in disciplinary action and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is true and correct.

Parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved date August 11, 2009