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*White Bear Lake Area
School Board Policy 524*

524 ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and guidelines for acceptable and safe use of the Internet, including electronic communications, and the District's Electronic Technologies. District Electronic Technologies include but are not limited to computers and peripherals, printers, phones and the applications they support and/or access.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

In making decisions regarding student and employee access to the School District Electronic Technologies and the Internet, including electronic communications, the School District considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. The goal in providing these resources is to facilitate resource sharing, innovation and communication and to support the mission of the District in ensuring that our students develop a love of learning, excel academically, are inspired to realize their dreams and become engaged citizens with a global understanding. The School District expects that faculty will blend thoughtful use of the School District Electronic Technologies and the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in ~~its~~ their use.

III. LIMITED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

The School District is providing students and employees with access to the School District Electronic Technologies, which includes Internet access. It is not the purpose of the system to provide students and employees with unlimited access to the Internet or to create a limited public forum for the discussion of issues. Access to the School District system is limited to educational purposes, which includes use of the system for classroom activities, educational research, professional or career development activities, and for school administration. Users are expected to use the District system to further educational and professional goals consistent with the mission of the School District and school policies. Uses which might be acceptable on a user's private personal account on another system may not be acceptable on this limited-purpose network.

IV. USE OF SYSTEM IS A PRIVILEGE

The use of the School District system and access to use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Acceptable use of the School District's computer system is the responsibility of the user. The School District has the right to monitor its computer system and enforce this policy. Depending on the nature and degree of the violation and the number of previous violations, unacceptable use of the School District system or the Internet may result in one or

more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges; payments for damages and repairs; discipline under other appropriate School District policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or termination of employment; or civil or criminal liability under other applicable laws.

V. UNACCEPTABLE USES

- A. Users are responsible for anything set on the network with their name or IP address on
- it. Users shall not engage in any activity that disrupts or hinders the performance of the District's Electronic Technologies. Specifically, the following uses of the District's Electronic Technologies are considered unacceptable:
1. Users will not use the School District system to access, review, upload, download, store, print, post, receive, transmit, or distribute:
 - a. pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material or other visual depictions that are harmful to minors;
 - b. obscene, abusive, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually explicit language;
 - c. materials that use language or images that are inappropriate in the education setting or disruptive to the educational process;
 - d. information or materials that could cause damage or danger of disruption to the educational process;
 - e. materials that use language or images that advocate violence or discrimination toward other people (hate literature) or that may constitute harassment or discrimination.
 2. Personal photos, files or music not related to educational purposes shall not be viewed or accessed for any period of time during work hours and during classroom hours.
 3. Users will not use the School District system to knowingly or recklessly post, transmit, or distribute false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or to harass another person, use language that is abusive, hostile, demeaning, disrespectful or threatening toward another person, or to engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
 4. Users will not use the School District system to engage in any illegal act or violate any local, state, or federal statute or law.
 5. Users will not use the School District system to vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization, will not make deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt equipment, software, or system performance by

spreading computer viruses or by any other means, will not tamper with, modify, or change the School District system software, hardware, or wiring or take any action to violate the School District's security system, and will not use the School District system in such a way as to disrupt the use of the system by other users.

6. Users will not use the School District system to gain unauthorized access to information resources or to access another person's materials, information, or files without permission.
7. Users will not use the District's Electronic Technologies to post private information about themselves or another person. This prohibition shall not prevent private information from being posted in the ordinary course of business by school personnel. Private information includes personal contact information about themselves or other persons, or other personally identifiable information including, but not limited to, address, telephone numbers, identification numbers, account numbers, access codes or passwords, labeled photographs, or other information that would make the individual's identity easily traceable and will not repost a message that was sent to the user privately without permission of the person who sent the message.
 - a. This paragraph does not prohibit the posting of employee contact information on school district webpages or communications between employees and other individuals when such communications are made for education-related purposes (i.e., communications with parents or other staff members related to students).
 - b. Employees creating or posting school-related webpages may include personal contact information about themselves on a webpage. However, employees may not post personal contact information or other personally identifiable information about students unless:
 - (1) such information is classified by the school district as directory information and verification is made that the school district has not received notice from a parent/guardian or eligible student that such information is not to be designated as directory information in accordance with Policy 515; or
 - (2) such information is not classified by the school district as directory information but written consent for release of the information to be posted has been obtained from a parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with Policy 515.

In addition, prior to posting any personal contact or personally identifiable information on a school-related webpage, employees shall obtain written approval of the content of the postings from the building administrator.

8. Users will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the School District system or any other system through the School District system, attempt to log in through another person's account, or use computer accounts, access codes, or network identification other than those assigned to the user. Messages and records on the School District system may not be encrypted without the permission of appropriate school authorities.
 9. Users will not use the School District system to violate copyright laws or usage licensing agreements, or otherwise to use another person's property without the person's prior approval or proper citation, including the downloading or exchanging of pirated software or copying software to or from any school computer, and will not plagiarize works on the Internet.
 10. Users will not use the School District system for conducting business, for unauthorized commercial purposes, for promotion of political views or social agendas, including political campaigning, or for financial gain unrelated to the mission of the School District. Users will not use the School District system to offer or provide goods or services or for product advertisement. Users will not use the School District system to purchase goods or services for personal use without authorization from the appropriate School District official.
 11. Students in the course of completing assignments for class, including assignments involving the use of collaborative and social networking tools on the Internet, are expected to abide by the Electronic Technologies Acceptable Use Policy and policies and procedures regarding student discipline, student code of conduct, bullying prevention, copyright and plagiarism.
 12. Users will not review or access any materials related to obtaining or using any controlled substances or products such as alcohol which may not lawfully be used or consumed by minors, without express written permission of their supervisor/teacher.
- B. A student or employee engaging in the foregoing unacceptable uses of the Internet when off School District premises also may be in violation of this policy as well as other School District policies. Examples of such violations include, but are not limited to, situations where the School District system is compromised or if a School District employee or student is negatively impacted. If the School District receives a report of an unacceptable use originating from a non-school computer or resource, the School District may investigate such reports to the best of its ability. Students or employees may be subject to disciplinary action for such conduct, including, but not limited to, suspension or cancellation of the use or access to the School District Electronic Technologies and the Internet and discipline under other appropriate School District policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or termination of employment.
- C. If a user inadvertently accesses unacceptable materials or an unacceptable Internet site, the user shall immediately disclose the inadvertent access to an appropriate School District official. In the case of a School District employee, the immediate disclosure shall be to the employee's immediate supervisor and/or the building

administrator. In certain rare instances, a user also may access otherwise unacceptable materials if necessary to complete an assignment and if done with the prior approval of and with appropriate guidance from the appropriate teacher or, in the case of a School District employee, the building administrator.

IV. FILTER

- A. With respect to any of its computers with Internet access, the School District will monitor the online activities of minors and employ technology protection measures during any use of such computers by minors and adults. The technology protection measures utilized will block or filter Internet access to any visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, violent or harmful to minors:
- B. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
 - 1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or
 - 2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - 3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
- C. An administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the Superintendent may disable the technology protection measure, during use by an adult, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

VII. CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES

Use of the School District Electronic Technologies and use of the Internet shall be consistent with School District policies and the mission of the School District.

VIII. NO EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY

- A. By authorizing use of the School District system, the School District does not relinquish control over materials stored or transmitted on the system or contained in files on the system. Users should expect no privacy in the contents of files on the School District system.
- B. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the School District system may lead to a discovery that a user has violated this policy, another School District policy, or the law.

- C. An individual investigation or search will be conducted if school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school district policy.
- D. Parents have the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their child's files and email files. Parents have the right to request the termination of their child's individual account at any time.
- E. School District employees should be aware that the School District retains the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their files and ~~e-mail~~ email files. In addition, School District employees should be aware that data and other materials in files maintained on the School District system may be subject to review, disclosure or discovery under Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act).
- F. The School District will cooperate fully with local, state and federal authorities in any investigation concerning or related to any illegal activities or activities not in compliance with School District policies conducted through the School District system.

IX. ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

- A. The proper use of the Electronic Technologies and Internet, and the educational value to be gained from proper Electronic Technologies and Internet use, is the joint responsibility of students, parents and employees of the School District.
- B. This policy requires the permission of and supervision by the school's designated professional staff before a student may use a school account or resource to access the Internet.
- C. The Electronic Technologies Acceptable Use Policy will be referenced in the Student handbook and Employee Handbook, and will be posted on the District web site. Paper copies will be available to parents upon request. Supervising teachers will provide guidance and instruction on acceptable use of the Internet. Parents may request that their child not use the Internet by notifying the school.
- D. All users shall be responsible for the protection and security of their passwords. Users shall have the ability to change passwords and maintain the confidentiality of logon codes.

X. LIMITATION ON SCHOOL DISTRICT LIABILITY

Use of the School District system is at the user's own risk. The system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The School District will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including, but not limited to, loss, damage, or unavailability of data stored on School District diskettes, tapes, hard drives, or servers, or for delays or changes in or interruptions of service or misdeliveries or nondeliveries of information or materials, regardless of the cause.

The School District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of any advice or information obtained through or stored on the School District system. The School District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through unauthorized use of the School District system or the Internet.

XI. USER NOTIFICATION

- A. All users shall be notified of the School District policies relating to Electronic Technologies Acceptable Use.
- B. This notification shall include the following:
 - 1. Notification of that Internet use is subject to compliance with School District policies.
 - 2. Notification of Unacceptable Use of District Electronic Technologies.
 - 3. Disclaimers limiting the School District's liability relative to:
 - a. Information stored on School District diskettes, hard drives or servers, CD, DVD, jump drives, memory sticks, or any other storage device.
 - b. Information retrieved through School District computers, networks or online resources.
 - c. Personal property used to access School District computers, networks or online resources.
 - d. Unauthorized financial obligations resulting from use of School District resources/accounts to access the Internet.
 - 4. A description of the privacy rights and limitations of school sponsored/managed Internet accounts.
 - 5. Notification that, even though the School District may use technical means to limit student Internet access, these limits do not provide a foolproof means for enforcing the provisions of this acceptable use policy.
 - 6. Notification that goods and services can be purchased over the Internet that could potentially result in unwanted financial obligations and that any financial obligation incurred by a student through the Internet is the sole responsibility of the student or the student's parents.
 - 7. Notification that should the user violate the School District's acceptable use policy, the student's access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.
 - 8. Notification that all provisions of the acceptable use policy are subordinate to local, state and federal laws.

9. Notification that student email addresses may be provided to District-approved third-party providers for access to educational tools and content.

XII. PARENT RESPONSIBILITY; NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT INTERNET USE

- A. Outside of school, parents bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies and other possibly offensive media.
- B. Parents will be notified that their students will be using School District resources/accounts to access the Internet and that the School District will provide parents the option to request alternative activities not requiring Internet access. This notification should include:
 1. A copy of the user notification form provided to the student user
 2. A description of parent/guardian responsibilities.
 3. A notification that the parents have the option to request alternative educational activities not requiring Internet access and the material to exercise this option.
 4. A statement that the Electronic Technologies Acceptable Use Agreement must be signed by the user, the parent or guardian, and the supervising teacher prior to use by the student.
 5. A statement that the School District's Electronic Technologies Acceptable Use Policy is available for parental review.

XIII. IMPLEMENTATION; POLICY REVIEW

- A. The School District administration may develop appropriate guidelines and procedures necessary to implement this policy for submission to the school board for approval. Upon approval by the school board, such guidelines and procedures shall be an addendum to this policy.
- B. The administration shall revise the student and parent notifications, if necessary, to reflect the adoption of these guidelines and procedures.
- C. The School District's Internet policies and procedures are available for review by all parents, guardians, staff and members of the community.
- D. Because of the rapid changes in the development of the Internet, the school board shall conduct an annual review of this policy.

Legal References: 15 U.S.C. § 6501 *et seq.* (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act)
17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Copyrights)

20 U.S.C. § 6701 *et seq.* (Enhancing Education Through Technology Act of 2001)
47 U.S.C. § 254 (Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000 (CIPA))
47 C.F.R. §54.520 (FCC regulations implementing CIPA)
Minn. Stat. § 125B.15 (Internet Access for Students)
Minn. Stat. § 125B.26 (Telecommunications/Internet Access Equity Aid)
United States v. American Library Association, 539 U.S. 194 (2003)

Cross References: MSBA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
MSBA Model policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
MSBA Model Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees)
WBLASB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
WBLASB Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
WBLASB Policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)
WBLASB Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
WBLASB Policy 522 (Student Sex Nondiscrimination)
WBLASB Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
WBLASB Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
WBLASB Policy 606 (Textbooks and Instructional Material)
WBLASB Policy 804 (Bomb Threats)
WBLASB Policy 904 (Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons)