

Electronic Communications System

General

Access to the internet and internet resident applications (a.k.a. Web 2.0) through the district network is a privilege. Any use inconsistent with Board policy may result in a cancellation of privileges. Acceptable use includes activities that support teaching, learning and administrative functions. Network users are encouraged to develop uses within these regulations that meet their individual needs and take advantage of network capabilities.

Definitions

1. “Technology protection measure,” as defined by the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) means a specific technology that blocks or filters internet access to visual depictions that are:
 - a. Obscene, as that term is defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code;
 - b. Child pornography, as that term is defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code; or
 - c. Harmful to minors.
2. “Harmful to minors” as defined by CIPA means any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:
 - a. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to an obscene interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
 - b. 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
 - c. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value to minors.
3. “Sexual act; sexual contact” as defined by CIPA have the meanings given such terms in Section 2246 of Title 18, United States Code.
4. “Minor” as defined by CIPA means an individual who has not attained the age of 17. For the purposes of Board policy and administrative regulation, minor shall include all students enrolled in district schools.
5. “Inappropriate matter” as defined by the district means material that is inconsistent with general public education purposes, the district’s mission and goals.¹

¹As appropriate matter is not defined in the CIPA or regulations, districts should define the scope of what it will regard as inappropriate matter. The language provided in #5 is intended as a guide only.

General District Responsibilities

The district shall:

1. Designate staff as necessary to ensure coordination and maintenance of the district's electronic communications system, which includes all district computers, e-mail and internet access;
2. Provide staff training in the appropriate use of the district's system including copies of district policy and administrative regulations. Staff shall provide similar training to authorized system users;
3. Cooperate fully with local, state or federal officials in any investigation relating to misuse of the district's system;
4. Use only properly licensed software, audio or video media purchased by the district or approved for use by the district. The district shall comply with the requirements of law regarding the use, reproduction and distribution of copyrighted works and with applicable provisions of use or license agreements;
5. Install and use desktop and/or server virus detection and removal software;
6. Provide technology protection measures that protect against internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or with respect to the use of computers by minors, harmful to minors. An administrator, supervisor or other individual authorized by the superintendent may disable the technology protection measures to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, as deemed appropriate;
7. Prohibit access by minors, as defined by this regulation, to inappropriate matter on the internet and world wide web;
8. Provide staff oversight to monitor the online activities of students to prevent unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities online, and ensure the safety and security of minors when authorized to use e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communication;
9. Provide student education about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response, and how to interact with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms;
10. Determine which users and sites accessible as part of the district's system are most applicable to the curricular needs of the district and may restrict user access, accordingly;
11. Determine which users shall be provided access to the district's e-mail system;
12. Program its computers to display a message reinforcing key elements of the district's Electronic Communications System policy and regulation when accessed by the user;

13. Notify appropriate system users that:
 - a. The district retains ownership of its computers, hardware, software and data at all times. All communications and stored information transmitted, received or contained in the district's information system are the district's property and are to be used for authorized purposes only. Use of district equipment or software for unauthorized purposes is strictly prohibited. To maintain system integrity, monitor network etiquette and ensure that those authorized to use the district's system are in compliance with Board policy, administrative regulations and law, school administrators may routinely review user files and communications.
 - b. Files and other information, including e-mail, sent or received, generated or stored on district servers are not private and may be subject to monitoring. By using the district's system, individuals consent to have that use monitored by authorized district personnel. The district reserves the right to access and disclose, as appropriate, all information and data contained on district computers and district-owned e-mail system;
 - c. The district may establish a retention schedule for the removal of e-mail;
 - d. E-mail sent or received by a Board member or employee in connection with the transaction of public business may be a public record and subject to state archivist rules for retention and destruction;
 - e. Information and data entered or stored on the district's computers and e-mail system may become discoverable evidence if a public records request is made or a lawsuit is filed against the district. "Deleted" or "purged" data from district computers or e-mail system may be retrieved for later public records disclosure or disciplinary purposes, as deemed necessary by the district;
 - f. The district may set quotas for system disk usage. The district may allow system users to increase their quota by submitting a written request to the supervising teacher or system coordinator stating the need for the increase;
 - g. Passwords used on the district's system are the property of the district and must be provided to designated district personnel, as appropriate. Passwords that have not been provided to the district are prohibited;
 - h. Transmission of any materials regarding political campaigns is prohibited.
14. Ensure all student users Review the Personal Communication and Electronic Devices section of the Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.
15. Provide staff supervision to monitor the online activities of students to prevent unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities online, and ensure the safety and security of minors when authorized to use e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communication;
16. Notify users of known copyright infringing activities and deny access or remove the material.

System Access

1. Access to the district's system is authorized to:
 - a. Board members;
 - b. District employees;
 - c. Students in grades K-12, with parent approval and when under the direct supervision of staff or other members of the public as authorized by the system coordinator or district administrators consistent with the district's policy governing use of district equipment and materials.
2. Students, staff, Board members, and other members of the public may be permitted to use the district's system for personal use, in addition to official district business, consistent with Board policy, general use prohibitions/guidelines/etiquette and other applicable provisions of this administrative regulation. Personal use of district-owned computers including internet and e-mail access by employees is prohibited during the employee's work hours. Additionally, Board member and employee use of district-owned computers may be permitted only when such use does not violate the provisions of ORS 244.040 and use is under the same terms and conditions that access is provided to the general public under the district's policy governing use of district equipment and materials.

General Use Prohibitions/Guidelines/Etiquette

Operation of the district's system relies upon the proper conduct and appropriate use of system users. Students, staff and others granted system access are responsible for adhering to the following prohibitions and guidelines, which require legal, ethical and efficient utilization of the district's system.

It is in the best interest of the employee and the district that online communications (email, social networking, etc.) remain expressly professional. For example, it is recommended that district staff and students not become "friends" on Facebook.com or other similar pairings in the area of social networking.

Prohibitions

The following conduct is strictly prohibited:

1. Attempts to use the district's system for:
 - a. Unauthorized solicitation of funds;
 - b. Distribution of chain letters;
 - c. Unauthorized sale or purchase of merchandise and services;
 - d. Collection of signatures;
 - e. Membership drives;
 - f. Transmission of any materials regarding political campaigns.
2. Attempts to upload, download, use, reproduce or distribute information, data or software or file share music, videos or other materials on the district's system in violation of copyright law or applicable provisions of use or license agreements;

3. Attempts to degrade, disrupt or vandalize the district's equipment, software, materials or data or those of any other user of the district's system or any of the agencies or other networks connected to the district's system;
4. Attempts to evade, change or exceed resource quotas or disk usage quotas;
5. Attempts to send, intentionally access or download any text file or picture or engage in any communication that includes material, which may be interpreted as:
 - a. Harmful to minors;
 - b. Obscene or child pornography as defined by law or indecent, vulgar, profane or lewd as determined by the district;
 - c. A product or service not permitted to minors by law;
 - d. Harassment, intimidation, menacing, threatening or constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses others;
 - e. A likelihood that, either because of its content or the manner of distribution, it shall cause a material or substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation of the school or school activity;
 - f. Defamatory, libelous, reckless or maliciously false, potentially giving rise to civil liability, constituting or promoting discrimination, a criminal offense or otherwise violates any law, rule, regulation, Board policy and/or administrative regulation.
6. Attempts to gain unauthorized access to any service via the district's system which has a cost involved or attempts to incur other types of costs without specific approval. The user accessing such services shall be responsible for these costs;
7. Attempts to post or publish personal student or staff contact information unless authorized by the system coordinator or teacher and consistent with applicable Board policy pertaining to student directory information and personally identifiable information. Personal contact information includes photograph, age, home, school, work or e-mail addresses or phone numbers or other unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding students;
8. Attempts to arrange student meetings with anyone on the district's system, unless authorized by the system coordinator or teacher and with prior parent approval;
9. Attempts to use the district's name in external communication forums such as chat rooms without prior district authorization;
10. Attempts to use another individual's account name or password, fail to provide the district with individual passwords or to access restricted information, resources or networks to which the user has not been given access.

Guidelines/Etiquette

System users shall:

1. Adhere to the same standards for communicating on-line that are expected in the classroom and consistent with Board policy and administrative regulations;
2. Respect other people's time and cyberspace. Use real-time conference features such as talk/chat/internet relay chat only as approved by the supervising teacher or system coordinator. Avoid downloading excessively large files. Remain on the system long enough to get needed information then exit the system;
3. Take pride in communications. Check spelling and grammar;
4. Respect the privacy of others. Do not read the mail or files of others without their permission;
5. Cite all quotes, references and sources;
6. Adhere to guidelines for managing and composing effective e-mail messages:
 - a. One subject per message - avoid covering various issues in a single e-mail message;
 - b. Use a descriptive heading;
 - c. Be concise - keep message short and to the point;
 - d. Write short sentences;
 - e. Use bulleted lists to break up complicated text;
 - f. Conclude message with actions required and target dates;
 - g. Remove e-mail in accordance with established guidelines;
 - h. Remember, there is no expected right to privacy when using e-mail. Others may read or access mail;
 - i. Always sign messages;
 - j. Always acknowledge receipt of a document or file.
7. Protect password confidentiality. Passwords are the property of the district and are not to be shared with others. Using another user's account or password or allowing such access by another may be permitted with supervising teacher or system coordinator approval only. No system user may use a password on the district's computers, e-mail system or internet access which is unknown to the district;
8. Communicate only with such users and/or sites as may be authorized by the district;
9. Be forgiving of the mistakes of others and share your knowledge. Practice good mentioning techniques;
10. Report violations of the district's policy and administrative regulation or security problems to the supervising teacher, system coordinator or administrator, as appropriate.

Complaints

Complaints regarding use of the district's electronic communications system may be made to the teacher, principal, employee's supervisor or system coordinator. The district's established complaint procedure shall be used for complaints concerning violations of the district's electronic communications system policy and/or administrative regulation

Violations/Consequences

Students

1. Students who violate general system user prohibitions shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion and/or revocation of district system access up to and including permanent loss of privileges.
2. Violations of law shall be reported to law enforcement officials.
3. Disciplinary action may be appealed by parents, students and/or a representative in accordance with established district procedures.

Staff

1. All district staff are to comply with guidelines identified in the description of the Ethical Educator as found in OAR 584-020-0035.
2. Staff who violate general system user prohibitions shall be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal in accordance with Board policy, collective bargaining agreements and applicable provisions of law.
3. Violations of law shall be reported to law enforcement officials.
4. Violations of applicable Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC), Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators shall be reported to TSPC as provided by OAR 584-020-0041.
5. Violations of ORS 244.040 shall be reported to GSC.

Others

1. Other guest users who violate general system user prohibitions shall be subject to suspension of system access up to and including permanent revocation of privileges.
2. Violations of law shall be reported to law enforcement officials or other agencies, as appropriate.

Telephone/Membership/Other Charges

The district assumes no responsibility or liability for any membership or phone charges including, but not limited to, long distance charges, per minute (unit) surcharges and/or equipment or line costs incurred by any home usage of the district's system.

Any disputes or problems regarding phone services for home users of the district's system are strictly between the system user and his/her local phone company and/or long distance service provider.

Information Content/Third Party Supplied Information

System users and parents of student system users are advised that use of the district's system may provide access to materials that may be considered objectionable and inconsistent with the district's mission and goals. Parents should be aware of the existence of such materials and monitor their student's home usage of the district's system accordingly.

Opinions, advice, services and all other information expressed by system users, information providers, service providers or other third party individuals are those of the providers and not the district.

System users may, with supervising teacher or system coordinator approval, order services or merchandise from other individuals and agencies that may be accessed through the district's system. These individuals and agencies are not affiliated with the district. All matters concerning merchandise and services ordered including, but not limited to, purchase terms, payment terms, warranties, guarantees and delivery are solely between the seller and the system user. The district makes no warranties or representation whatsoever with regard to any goods or services provided by the seller. District staff and administration shall not be a party to any such transaction or be liable for any costs or damages arising out of, either directly or indirectly, the actions or inactions of sellers.

The district does not warrant that the functions or services performed by or that the information or software contained on the system shall meet the system user's requirements or that the system shall be uninterrupted or error-free or that defects shall be corrected. The district's system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The district does not make any warranties, whether express or implied including, without limitation, those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any services provided by the system and any information or software contained therein.