



Use of Internet

Policy Number: 4.406	Monitoring Review: Annually
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Approved by: Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds, Commissioner	

The Achievement School District (ASD) supports the right of staff and students to have reasonable access to various information formats and believes that it is incumbent upon staff and students to use this privilege in an appropriate and responsible manner.

EMPLOYEES

Before any employee is allowed use of the ASD's internet or intranet access, the employee shall sign a written agreement, developed by the superintendent/designee that sets out the terms and conditions of such use. Any employee who accesses the ASD's computer system for any purpose agrees to be bound by the terms of that agreement, even if no signed written agreement is on file.

The superintendent shall develop and implement procedures for appropriate internet use which shall address the following:

1. Development of the Network and Internet Use Agreement;
2. General rules and ethics of internet access;
3. Guidelines regarding appropriate instruction and oversight of student internet use;
4. A uniform signature block for use by all district employees; and
5. Prohibited and illegal activities, including but not limited to the following:¹
 - Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures;
 - Using obscene language;
 - Harassing, insulting, defaming, or attacking others;
 - Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks;
 - Hacking or attempting unauthorized access to any computer;

¹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-602

- Violation of copyright laws;
- Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files;
- Intentional misuse of resources;
- Using another's password or other identifier (impersonation);
- Using the network for commercial purposes; and
- Buying or selling on the internet.

STUDENTS

The superintendent shall develop and implement procedures for appropriate internet use by students.

Procedures shall address the following:

1. General rules and ethics of internet use; and
2. Prohibited or illegal activities, including, but not limited to:¹
 - Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures;
 - Using obscene language;
 - Harassing, insulting, defaming, or attacking others;
 - Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks;
 - Hacking or attempting unauthorized access;
 - Violation of copyright laws;
 - Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files;
 - Intentional misuse of resources;
 - Using another's password or other identifier (impersonation);
 - Using the network for commercial purposes; and
 - Buying or selling on the internet.

INTERNET SAFETY MEASURES²

Internet safety measures shall be implemented that effectively address the following:

1. Controlling access by students to inappropriate matter on the internet and world wide web;
2. Safety and security of students when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
3. Preventing unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by students online;
4. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding students; and
5. Restricting students' access to materials harmful to them.

² Children's Internet Protection Act (Public Law 106-554)

The superintendent/designee shall establish a process to ensure the ASD's education technology is not used for purposes prohibited by law or for accessing sexually explicit materials. The process shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Utilizing technology that blocks or filters internet access (for both students and adults) to material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to students;
2. Maintaining and securing a usage log; and
3. Monitoring online activities of students.²

The ASD shall provide reasonable public notice of and at least one (1) public hearing or meeting to address and communicate its internet safety measures.²

A written parental consent shall be required prior to the student being granted access to electronic media involving ASD technological resources. The required permission/agreement form, which shall specify acceptable uses, rules of online behavior, access privileges, and penalties for policy/procedural violations, must be signed by the parent/guardian of minor students (those under 18 years of age) and also by the student. This document shall be executed each year and shall be valid only in the school year in which it was signed unless parent(s)/guardian(s) provide written notice that consent is withdrawn. In order to rescind the agreement, the student's parent/guardian (or the student who is at least 18 years old) must provide the superintendent with a written request.

E-MAIL

Users with network access shall not utilize ASD resources to establish electronic mail accounts through third-party providers or any other nonstandard electronic mail system. All data including e-mail communications stored or transmitted on school system computers shall be monitored. Employees/students have no expectation of privacy with regard to such data. E-mail correspondence may be a public record under the public records law and may be subject to public inspection.³

INTERNET SAFETY INSTRUCTION⁴

Students will be given appropriate instruction in internet safety as a part of any instruction utilizing computer resources. The superintendent shall provide adequate in-service instruction on internet safety.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students will be provided with material to raise awareness of the dangers posed by the internet and ways in which the internet may be used safely.

³ Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-512

⁴ Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-221

SOCIAL NETWORKING

1. ASD staff who have a presence on social networking websites are prohibited from posting data, documents, photographs, or inappropriate information that is likely to create a material and substantial disruption of classroom activity.
2. ASD staff are prohibited from accessing personal social networking sites on school computers or during school hours except for legitimate instructional purposes.
3. The ASD discourages staff from socializing with students on social networking websites. The same relationship, exchange, interaction, information, or behavior that would be unacceptable in a non-technological medium is unacceptable when done through the use of technology.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of this policy or a procedure promulgated under its authority shall be handled in accordance with the existing disciplinary procedures of Tennessee Department of Education.