

GUSD

Board Policy

Student Use Of Technology

BP 6163.4

Instruction

The Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the district be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

(cf. 0440 - District Technology Plan)
(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)
(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 6163.1 - Library Media Centers)

***Note: The following three paragraphs are optional and may be revised to reflect district practice. Many districts have developed an Acceptable Use Agreement containing rules for the use of the district's technological resources which students and their parents/guardians are required to sign; also see the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of district computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities in accordance with district regulations and the district's Acceptable Use Agreement.

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))
(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Before a student is authorized to use the district's technological resources, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the district or any district staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the district and district personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

(cf. 6162.6 - Use of Copyrighted Materials)

The Superintendent or designee, with input from students and appropriate staff, shall regularly review and update this policy, the accompanying administrative regulation, and other relevant procedures to enhance the safety and security of students using the district's technological resources and to help ensure that the district adapts to changing technologies and circumstances.

Use of District Computers for Online Services/Internet Access

***Note: 20 USC 6777 mandates that districts adopt an Internet safety policy as a condition of receiving technology funds under Title II, Part D of the No Child Left Behind Act (20 USC 6751-6777) for the purpose of purchasing computers with Internet access or paying for direct costs associated with accessing the Internet. 47 USC 254 mandates that districts adopt an Internet safety policy in order to qualify for federal universal service discounts for Internet access (E-rate discounts). This mandate applies to districts that receive E-rate discounts for Internet access, Internet services, or internal connections, but not to districts that receive discounts for telecommunications services only. ***

Note: Both 20 USC 6777 and 47 USC 254 require that the district's policy include the operation and enforcement of a "technology protection measure" that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. As part of the funding application process, a district is required to certify that it has the required policy in place and is enforcing the operation of the technology protection measure. For the first year that a district is applying for funds, 20 USC 6777 and 47 USC 254 allow the district to certify that it does not yet have the policy or technology protection measure in place, but that it is in the process of putting the policy or measure in place for the second funding year.

Note: The following paragraph is mandated for districts that use E-rate or federal technology funding sources and may be adapted by other districts that choose to install technology protection measures.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors and that the operation of such measures is enforced. (20 USC 6777, 47 USC 254)

***Note: Districts receiving E-rate discounts for Internet access, Internet services, or internal connections are also mandated by 47 USC 254 to adopt policy that addresses (1) access by minors to "inappropriate matter" on the Internet; (2) safety and security of minors when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication; (3) unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful online activities by minors; (4) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and (5) measures designed to restrict minors' access to harmful materials. ***

Note: On October 8, 2008, the President signed the Broadband Data Improvement Act (P.L. 110-385) which amended 47 USC 254 to mandate that the district's Internet safety policy now include educating students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking web sites and in chat rooms as well as cyberbullying awareness and response. See BP 5131 - Conduct for additional language prohibiting cyberbullying and outlining the district's response to a report or complaint of cyberbullying.

***Note: The remainder of this section addresses these mandates and may be revised to reflect district practice. See the accompanying administrative regulation for additional language implementing these mandates. Districts that do not receive E-rate discounts may choose to use or adapt this material at their discretion. ***

To reinforce these measures, the Superintendent or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities. Staff shall supervise students while they are using online services and may have teacher aides, student aides, and volunteers assist in this supervision.

The Superintendent or designee also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students and student information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying.

Student use of district computers to access social networking sites is prohibited. To the extent possible, the Superintendent or designee shall block access to such sites on district computers with Internet access.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51006 Computer education and resources

51007 Programs to strengthen technological skills

51870-51874 Education technology

60044 Prohibited instructional materials

PENAL CODE

313 Harmful matter

502 Computer crimes, remedies

632 Eavesdropping on or recording confidential communications

653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 15
6501-6506 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
6751-6777 Enhancing Education Through Technology Act, Title II, Part D, especially:
6777 Internet safety
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47
254 Universal service discounts (E-rate)
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 16
312.1-312.12 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 47
54.520 Internet safety policy and technology protection measures, E-rate discounts

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

How to Protect Kids' Privacy Online: A Guide for Teachers, December 2000

MY SPACE.COM PUBLICATIONS

The Official School Administrator's Guide to Understanding MySpace and Resolving Social Networking Issues

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org>

California Coalition for Children's Internet Safety: <http://www.cybersafety.ca.gov>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use: <http://csriu.org>

Federal Communications Commission: <http://www.fcc.gov>

Federal Trade Commission, Children's Online Privacy Protection:

<http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/privacyinitiatives/childrens.html>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

Web Wise Kids: <http://www.webwisekids.org>

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