

6.54 - TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

PURPOSE OF USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

Technology is an essential 21st century tool that supports learning and heightens instruction. The use of technology in the classroom provides resource sharing, innovation, and the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

In making decisions regarding access to the Internet, the Franklin Local School District considers its own mission and vision statements, goals, and objectives. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources while exchanging information with people from around the world. The Internet is a tool for life-long learning and necessary to develop students who are ready to live and work in the 21st century.

The District expects that the faculty will blend thoughtful use of the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in its use. Specific instruction will be provided to all students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites, in chat rooms, texting, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response. As much as possible, access from school to the Internet resources should be structured in ways which point students to those resources which have been evaluated prior to use. While students will be able to move beyond previewed resources to others that have not been previewed by staff, it is expected that students be provided guidelines, either oral or written, for the use of these resources so that educational objectives remain paramount.

PARENTAL PERMISSION AND STUDENT SUPERVISION

Access to the Internet in school as a tool for learning will be automatic. Parents or legal guardians may choose to deny their child access to the Internet by indicating their desire by their signature on the back of the emergency care card. Students may be expected to complete alternate assignments when not permitted to access the Internet. Students must also provide their signature on the back of the emergency care card as indication of their understanding of school policies. Moreover, students utilizing district provided Internet access or accessing the Internet on a personal device must first have the permission of and be supervised by Franklin Local instructional staff members. Students utilizing the Internet regardless if the access is on school or personal equipment or on the school network or other available network are responsible for good behavior on-line just as they are in a classroom or other area of the school. The same general rules contained in the Student Code of Conduct apply.

PRIVACY IS NOT GUARANTEED

The Superintendent, principals, and other administrators, may review files and monitor all student computer and Internet activity to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are acting responsibly. Teachers and administrators may monitor ongoing student Internet activities including but not limited to email, instant messages, blogs, or websites regardless of the ownership of the device or network. Privacy is not guaranteed. Electronic messages and files stored on school-based computers may be treated like school lockers.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

The District makes no assurances of any kind, whether expressed or implied, regarding any Internet services provided. However, the District is responsible for ensuring that Internet filtering is applied to all technology in the district when accessing the Internet through the district network. The district is in compliance with all federal, state, and local legislation regarding content filtering. Parents and guardians should be aware that it is impossible, considering the nature of the Internet to filter every inappropriate site, and that what may be offensive to one person may not be to another. The District's intent is to make Internet access available in order to further educational goals and objectives, but students may find ways to access other materials as well.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

Ultimately, parents and guardians of students are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information resources. Toward that end, the Franklin Local School district develops policies and procedures regarding the use of technology in schools available via the technology section of the website or in print upon request. Outside of school, parents and guardians are encouraged to exercise the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources, such as television, telephones, music, movies, and other possible offensive media.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff members are expected to be familiar with the acceptable use policy and procedures and are expected to enforce rules concerning acceptable and unacceptable use when their duties include supervising students using technology resources. Staff members are expected to monitor the online activities of minors and must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites, chat rooms, texting as well as cyberbullying awareness and response. When in the course of their duties staff members become aware of violations of the Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedures, they should correct the user and address that matter in accordance with this procedure, the Student Code of Conduct, and other relevant policies.

USE OF EMAIL

The Franklin Local School District may provide student email accounts. It is understood that many students may wish to access an account provided by an outside vendor such as Yahoo, Gmail, or Hotmail. This is prohibited. Students are reminded that when accessing email accounts regardless of device or network that their messages may be monitored by staff members.

ACCEPTABLE USE

The educational value of the student technology use is the joint responsibility of students, teachers, parents, and employees of the Franklin Local School District. Since access to the Internet is a valuable and limited resource, students are expected to place a premium on the quality of use. Taking up valuable bandwidth and access time on activities to pursue frivolous ends is not consistent with the mission and vision of Franklin Local Schools. This statement represents a guide to acceptable use of technology resources in Franklin Local Schools.

All use of technology regardless of device or network or ownership of device or network when on the school premises must be consistent with the education mission, vision, and goals of the school district. The intent of this use policy is to make clear certain cases which are consistent with the educational objectives of the school district, not to exhaustively enumerate all such possible use.

1. Users of technology resources have the privilege to access the technology resources including the Internet to facilitate diversity and personal growth in technology, information gathering skills, communication, and educational research.
2. Users of technology resources have the privilege to use the following resources: Internet websites, email, and online databases, however are not limited to this list of resources. Students may access social media or video streaming sites as directed by staff members and when access to these sites is consistent with educational purposes. When in doubt, it is the responsibility of the user to seek guidance from the supervising staff member.
3. Users of technology resources shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users or misrepresent other users on the Internet, the Franklin Local area network, or any other network.
4. Users of technology resources will accept responsibility for keeping copyrighted software of any kind from entering the Franklin Local area network or other network via any method.
5. Users of technology may not use the Internet or other technology resource to access any pornographic material, inappropriate text files, or files dangerous to the integrity of the Franklin Local area network or other network via any method.
6. Users of technology resources are responsible for all communication received and sent on district computers in any account such as, but not limited to, email messages, instant message, text message, or blogs. Users of district provided technology resources have the responsibility to make only those contacts leading to justifiable educational growth.
7. Hate messages, harassment, flaming (sending abusive messages), discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors that are disruptive to the educational process are prohibited on the Internet, in email, in files, or any other technology resource.
8. School administrators reserve the right to remove user accounts on the network to prevent unauthorized activity. School administrators reserve the right to limit use of personal technology devices or networks when they interfere with educational objectives.
9. Users of technology may not use proxy hunters or any other program or device designed to circumvent network security or filters. Tampering with the equipment, altering programs, installing programs without authorization, reconfiguring any part of a computer, network, or technology resource are prohibited and will result in loss of Internet and/or technology privileges. Further legal actions may be taken when appropriate.
10. School administrators reserve the right to exercise reasonable discretion to define inappropriate behavior, pornographic material, antisocial behavior that is disruptive to the educational process, and malicious use of technology resources. School administrators reserve the right to deny Internet and/or technology access to a student based on their behavior.