

## CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

### **Access to Electronic Media**

(Acceptable Use Policy)

The Board supports reasonable access to various information formats for students, staff and the community and believes it is incumbent upon users to utilize this privilege in an appropriate and responsible manner as required by this policy and related procedures, which apply to all parties who use District technology.

#### **SAFETY PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

The Superintendent shall develop and implement appropriate procedures to provide guidance for student, staff, and community access to electronic media. Guidelines shall address teacher supervision of student computer use, ethical use of electronic media (including, but not limited to, the Internet, e-mail and other District technological resources), and issues of privacy versus administrative review of electronic files and communications. In addition, guidelines shall prohibit utilization of networks for prohibited or illegal activities, the intentional spreading of embedded messages, or the use of other programs with the potential of damaging or destroying programs or data.

Students shall be provided instruction about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Internet safety measures, which shall apply to all District-owned devices with Internet access or personal devices that are permitted to access the District's network, shall be implemented that effectively address the following:

- Controlling access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web;
- Safety and security of minors when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- Preventing unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- Restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

Internet safety measures may be disabled by the Board's designee to enable access for appropriate research or other lawful purpose by an adult.

The District shall provide reasonable public notice of, and at least one (1) public hearing or meeting to address and communicate, its initial Internet safety measures.

Specific expectations for appropriate Internet use shall be reflected in the District's code of acceptable behavior and discipline including appropriate orientation for staff and students.

#### **PERMISSION/AGREEMENT FORM**

A signed AUP shall be required prior to the student being granted independent access to electronic media involving District technological resources.

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**PERMISSION/AGREEMENT FORM**

The required permission/agreement form, which shall specify responsible uses, rules of on-line behavior, access privileges and penalties for policy/procedural violations, must be signed by the parent or legal guardian of minor students (those under 18 years of age) and also by the student.

This document shall be kept on file as a legal, binding document. In order to modify or 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.

**USE OF SCHOOL OWNED ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Electronic devices may be made available for student use but shall be the responsibility of the person to whom the device is issued and be subject to all provisions set out in the policy and related procedures. In addition, a signed AUP form must be on file at the school or District level before an electronic device is issued to a student.

**AGREEMENT FORM FOR STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

A signed AUP shall be required prior to staff and/or community members being granted independent access to electronic media involving District technological resources.

The required AUP, which shall specify acceptable uses, rules of on-line behavior, access privileges and penalties for policy/procedural violations must be signed by a staff member. This document shall be kept on file as a legal, binding document.

**EMPLOYEE USE**

Employees are encouraged to use electronic mail and other District technology resources to promote student learning and communication with the home and education-related entities. If those resources are used, they shall be used primarily for purposes directly related to work-related activities.

Technology-based materials, activities and communication tools shall be appropriate for and within the range of the knowledge, understanding, age and maturity of students with whom they are used.

Networking, communication and other options offering instructional benefits may be used for the purpose of supplementing classroom instruction and to promote communications with students and parents concerning school-related activities.

All employees shall be subject to disciplinary action if their conduct relating to use of technology or online resources violates this policy or other applicable policy, statutory or regulatory provisions governing employee conduct. The Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel requires certified staff to protect the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students and confidentiality of student information. Conduct in violation of this Code, including, but not limited to, such conduct relating to the use of technology or online resources, must be reported to Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) as required by law and may form the basis for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

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**EMPLOYEE USE (CONTINUED)**

Once an individual is no longer employed with Beechwood Independent Schools, he/she no longer retains the rights to a Beechwood Independent Schools network account (this includes both file storage and electronic mail). Employees who leave at the end of the school year will have account access through June 30. Employees who leave midyear will have account access for up to one (1) month. Back-up/transfer of data (including emails) is the responsibility of each individual employee.

**DISREGARD OF RULES**

Individuals who refuse to sign required responsible use documents or who violate District rules governing the use of District technology shall be subject to loss or restriction of the privilege of using equipment, software, information access systems or other computing and telecommunications technologies.

Employees and students shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination (employees) and expulsion (students) for violating this policy and responsible use rules and regulations established by the school or District.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGES**

Students or staff members who deface a District web site or otherwise make unauthorized changes to a web site shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion and termination, as appropriate.

**RESPONDING TO CONCERNS**

School officials shall apply the same criterion of educational suitability used to review other educational resources when questions arise concerning access to specific databases or other electronic media.

**AUDIT OF USE**

Users with network access shall not utilize District resources to establish electronic mail accounts through third party providers or any other nonstandard electronic mail system.

The Superintendent/designee shall establish a process to determine whether the District's education technology is being 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 meets requirements of Kentucky Administrative Regulations and that blocks or filters Internet access for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to computers with Internet access by minors, harmful to minors;
2. Maintaining and securing a usage log; and
3. Monitoring online activities of minors.

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**RETENTION OF RECORDS FOR E-RATE PARTICIPANTS**

Following initial adoption, this policy and documentation of implementation shall be retained for at least ten (10) years after the last day of service in a particular funding year.

**REFERENCES:**

[KRS 156.675](#); [KRS 365.732](#); [KRS 365.734](#)

[701 KAR 005:120](#)

[16 KAR 1:020](#) [KAR 001:020](#) ([Code of Ethics](#)) (Code of Ethics)

47 U.S.C. 254/Children's Internet Protection Act; 47 C.F.R. 54.520

Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS)

47 C.F.R. 54.516

15-ORD-190

**RELATED POLICIES:**

03.13214/03.23214; 03.1325/03.2325; 03.17/03.27

08.1353; 08.2322

09.14; 09.421; 09.422; 09.425; 09.426; 09.4261

10.5