

Policy

INTERNET SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY

The Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School Board of Trustees shall develop a technology plan that effectively uses electronic communication to advance and promote learning and teaching. This system of technology shall be used to provide local, statewide, national and global communications opportunities for staff and students. Educational technology shall be infused into the school curriculum to maximize student achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

It is the policy of the school to establish safe and effective methods for student and staff users of the school's technological resources and to:

- A. Prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
- B. Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity;
- C. Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and
- D. Comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

COMPLIANCE WITH CIPA

Filters Blocking Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the school online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes:

- A. Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities; and
- B. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

INTERNET SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY (continued)

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the school staff to educate, supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet protection Act. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the principal or his or her designee.

The principal or his or her designee shall ensure that students and staff who use the school internet facilities receive appropriate training including the following:

- A. The school established standards for the acceptable use of the internet;
- B. Internet safety rules;
- C. Rules for limited supervised access to and appropriate behavioral expectations for use of online resources, social network websites, and chat rooms;
- D. Cyberbullying (board policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying) awareness and response.

Student use of the Internet shall be supervised by qualified staff.

Policy Development

The school Internet Safety and Technology policy shall be adopted and revised through a procedure that includes reasonable public notice and at least one public hearing.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET

Purpose

To support its commitment to providing avenues of access to the universe of information available, the school's system of electronic communication shall include access to the Internet for students and staff.

Limitation of Liability

The Internet constitutes an unregulated collection of resources that changes constantly, so it is not possible to totally predict or control the resources that users may locate. The board cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information or the appropriateness of materials that a user may encounter. Furthermore, the board shall not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. Nor shall the board be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system.

Rights and Responsibilities

The computer system is the property of the school, and all computer software and hardware belong to it. Therefore, the school retains the right to monitor all access to and use of the Internet.

The board designates the C.E.O. as the coordinator of the school system. He/she shall recommend to the board of trustees qualified staff persons to ensure provision of individual and class accounts necessary for access to the Internet, designation of quotas for disk usage on the system, establishment of a document retention schedule, establishment of a virus protection process and coordination of other activities as required to maintain the system.

INTERNET SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY (continued)

The principal shall coordinate the school system in the school by approving all activities; ensuring that teachers receive proper training in the use of the system; ensuring that students are adequately supervised when using the system; maintaining executed user agreements; and interpreting this acceptable use policy at the building level.

Access to the System

This acceptable use policy shall govern all use of the system. Sanctions for student misuse of the system shall be included in the disciplinary code for students, as set out in regulations for policy 5131 Conduct/discipline. Employee misuse may result in appropriate discipline in accord with the collective bargaining agreement and applicable laws and regulations.

The board shall ensure the acquisition and installation of blocking/filtering software to deny access to certain areas of the Internet.

World Wide Web

All students and employees of the board shall have access to the Web through the school's networked or stand alone computers. An agreement shall be required. To deny a child access, parents/ guardians must notify the building principal in writing.

Classroom E-mail Accounts

Students in grades K-8 shall be granted e-mail access through classroom accounts only. To deny a child access to a classroom account, parents/guardians must notify the building principal in writing.

Individual E-mail Accounts for Students

Students in grades K-8 may have individual accounts at the request of teachers and with the consent of parents/guardians. An individual account for any such student shall require an agreement signed by the student and his/her parent/guardian.

Individual E-mail Accounts for School Employees

School employees shall be provided with email access. Access to the system will be provided for staff members who have signed the acceptable use policy agreement. Email will be monitored and archived for three years. Employee email is discoverable and will be released if subpoenaed within the archival period set forth in this policy.

School Web Site

The board authorizes the C.E.O. to establish and maintain a school web site. The purpose of the web site will be to inform the school educational community of programs, policies and practices.

The school and classes may also establish web sites that include information on the activities of that school or class. The principal shall oversee these web sites.

The C.E.O. shall publish and disseminate guidelines on acceptable material for these web sites. The C.E.O. shall also ensure that school and school web sites do not disclose personally identifiable information about students without prior written consent from parents/guardians. Consent shall be obtained on the form developed by the State Department of Education. "Personally identifiable information" refers to student names, photos, addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and locations and times of class trips.

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Parental Notification and Responsibility

The principal shall ensure that parents/guardians are notified about the school network and the rules governing its use. Parents/guardians shall sign an agreement to allow their child(ren) to have an individual account. Parents/guardians who do not wish their child(ren) to have access to the Internet must notify the principal in writing.

Acceptable Use

Student Safety Practices

Students shall not post personal contact information about themselves or others. Nor shall students engage in any kind of personal contact with individuals they meet online. Attempts at contact from such individuals shall be reported immediately to the staff person monitoring that child's access to the Internet. Personal contact information includes but is not limited to names, home/school/work addresses, telephone numbers, or personal photographs.

Prohibited Activities

Users shall not attempt to gain unauthorized access (hacking) to the school system or to any other computer system through the school system, nor shall they go beyond their authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another individual's account or accessing another's files.

Users shall not deliberately attempt to disrupt the school's computer system performance or destroy data by spreading computer viruses, worms, "Trojan Horses," trap door program codes or any similar product that can damage computer systems, firewalls, servers or network systems.

Users shall not use the school system to engage in illegal activities.

Users shall not access material that is profane or obscene, that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or hate. Inadvertent access to such material should be reported immediately to the supervising staff person.

Users shall not plagiarize material that is available on the Internet. Plagiarism is presenting another's ideas/words as one's own.

Users shall not infringe on copyrighted material and shall follow all dictates of copyright law and the applicable policies of the school.

Prohibited Language

Prohibited language applies to public messages, private messages, and material posted on web pages.

Users shall not send or receive messages that contain obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, or threatening language.

Users shall not use the system to spread messages that can reasonably be interpreted as harassing, discriminatory or defamatory.

System Security

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Users are responsible for their accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent unauthorized access to them. In no case should a user provide his/her password to another individual.

Users shall immediately notify the supervising staff person or data processing department if they detect a possible security problem. Users shall not access the system solely for the purpose of searching for security problems.

Users shall not install or download software or other applications without permission of the supervising staff person.

Users shall follow all school virus protection procedures when installing or downloading approved software.

System Limits

Users shall access the system only for educational, professional or career development activities. This applies to discussion group mail lists, instant message services and participation in Internet "chat room" conversations.

Users shall check e-mail frequently and delete messages promptly.

Privacy Rights

Users shall respect the privacy of messages that they receive and refrain from reposting messages without the approval of the sender.

Users shall not publish private information about another individual.

Implementation

The C.E.O. may prepare regulations to implement this policy.

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Key Words

Acceptable Use, Blocking/Filtering Software, E-mail, Internet, Internet Safety, Technology, Web Site, World Wide Web, CIPA

<u>Legal References:</u> <u>N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-1 et seq.</u> <u>N.J.S.A. 2C:20-25</u> <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11</u>	Computer System Computer Related Theft Annual report of local school district; contents; annual report of commissioner; report on improvement of basic skills
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35</u>	School Internet websites; disclosure of certain student information prohibited
17 <u>U.S.C.</u> 101	United States Copyright Law
47 <u>CFR</u> 54.503(d)	<u>Competitive Bidding; Gift Restrictions</u>
47 <u>U.S.C.</u> 254(h)	<u>Children's Internet Protection Act</u>

INTERNET SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY (continued)

State in re T.L.O., 94 N.J. 331 (1983), reversed on other grounds, New Jersey v. T.L.O., 569 U.S. 325 (1985).

O'Connor v. Ortega 480 U.S. 709 (1987)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1111	School publications
	*3514	Equipment
	*3570	School records and reports
	*5114	Suspension and expulsion
	*5124	Reporting to parents/guardians
	*5131	Conduct/discipline
	*5131.5	Vandalism/violence
	*5142	Student safety
	*6144	Controversial issues
	*6145.3	Publications

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.