



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF COLLIER COUNTY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY

7540.04 - STAFF NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

Advances in telecommunications and other related technologies have fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in our society. Such changes are driving the need for educators to adapt their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to harness and utilize the vast, diverse, and unique resources available on the Network/Internet. The District is pleased to provide Network/Internet service to its staff. The District's Internet system has a limited educational purpose. The District's Internet system has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The Board has the right to place restrictions on its use to assure that use of the District's Internet system is in accord with its limited educational purpose. Staff use of the District's computers, network and Internet services ("Network") will be governed by this policy and the related administrative guidelines, and any applicable employment contracts and collective bargaining agreements. The due process rights of all users will be respected in the event there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of the Network. Users have a limited privacy expectation in the content of their personal files and records of their online activity while on the Network.

The District encourages staff to utilize the Network/Internet in order to promote educational excellence in our schools by providing them with the opportunity to develop the resource sharing, innovation, and communication skills and tools that are essential to both life and work. The District encourages the faculty to develop the appropriate skills necessary to effectively access, analyze, evaluate, and utilize these resources in enriching educational activities. The instructional use of the Network/Internet will be guided by the District's policy on instructional materials.

The Internet is a global information and communication network that provides an incredible opportunity to bring previously unimaginable education and information resources to our students. The Internet connects computers and users in the District with computers and users worldwide. Through the Internet, students and staff can access up-to-date, highly relevant information that will enhance their learning and the education process. Further, the Internet provides students and staff with the opportunity to communicate with other people from throughout the world. Access to such an incredible quantity of information and resources brings with it, however, certain unique challenges.

First, and foremost, the District may not be able to technologically limit access to services through the District's Network/Internet connection to only those that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study, and research related to the District related business. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness, access to the Network/Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, will open classrooms and staff to electronic information resources.

The Board has implemented the use of a Technology Protection Measure, which is a specific technology that will protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions that are obscene, child pornography, and materials that are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. At the discretion of the Board or Superintendent, the Technology Protection Measure may also be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Technology Protection Measure may not be disabled at any time that students may be using the Network, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act. The Superintendent may temporarily or permanently unblock access to sites containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the Technology Protection Measure. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the Technology Protection Measure.



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The District utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of staff members to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors. The Superintendent may disable the Technology Protection Measure to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

The Superintendent is directed to prepare procedures which address staff members' safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging and other forms of direct electronic communication, and prohibit disclosure of personal identification information of minors and unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking") and other unlawful activities by minors online. Staff members are reminded that personally identifiable student information is confidential and may not be disclosed without prior written parental permission.

Site administrators are responsible for providing training so that Network/Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying procedures. The School Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of the Network/Internet.

Staff members are responsible for good behavior on District's computers/network and the Network/Internet just as they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Network/Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The District does not sanction any use of the Network/Internet that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying procedures. Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying procedures may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users granted access to the Network/Internet through the District's computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for uses of the Network/Internet not authorized by this policy and its accompanying procedures.

The Board designates the Superintendent as the administrator responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying procedures as they apply to staff members' use of the Network.

F.S. 1001.41
H.R. 4577, P.L. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000
47 U.S.C. 254(h),(1), Communications Act of 1934, as amended
20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965,
as amended
18 U.S.C. 2256
18 U.S.C. 1460
18 U.S.C. 2246