



Book	Board Procedures
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### **Acceptable Use Agreement for EMPLOYEES:**

The Acceptable Use/Risk Guidelines are designed to provide employees with the District's expectations for the use of the district's electronic data and communication systems. The expectation for users is that the systems are only used to support the mission of the district, teaching and learning, and all associated support functions. Usage shall be work-related and meet the ethical standards for district employees set by the state and district.

#### **District Acceptable Use**

Due to current federal laws employees have little or no expectation of privacy when using the Internet at school (or at home when conducting school-related business). Employees should understand that all Internet usage at work is monitored and recorded.

1. All troubleshooting must go through the IT Department.
2. Users must ensure the security of any account issued in their name. Giving students access to any district user account is a violation of School Board policy, HIPAA and FERPA. Confidential information such as Social Security number, password, or medical information, is private and requires protection with the highest levels of security, as prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and standards. Measures taken to ensure the protection of confidential or sensitive information include but are not limited to:
  - a. Using strong passwords (i.e., at least eight letters and numbers and including a combination of at least three of the following: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, number, and symbols (e.g., !, @, ^));
  - b. Securing your workstation each time you leave it by locking it or logging off, and
  - c. Reporting suspected incidents of security violations.
3. School or district-related web sites (including blogs, wikis, etc.) must be maintained on a district-owned Web server or district-approved alternate host. All district Web-related policies shall be met. Employees must adhere to district Web guidelines. Teachers must pre-approve all content uploaded by students.
4. Email, web pages, and other Internet communications guidelines should be adhered to as follows:
  - a. Employees must read work-related email regularly. No employee is required to communicate with a parent or student via email.
  - b. Use of district-provided or related email and websites for non-educational purposes is prohibited. Examples include but are not limited to: jokes, chain letters, political advertisements, sales or profit-making activities, religious passages or any word or phrase that has religious connotations, and inspirational stories.
  - c. Email or website use for education-related petitions or fund-raising for non-profit/charitable events must be approved by site administrator or, if vendor-based, by the superintendent or designee.

- d. The forwarding of email should be restricted to those messages that are obviously intended for another, can be better addressed by another or include consent to forward in the body of the message.
  - e. Signatures must be limited to the following information: Name, Title, Address, Phone, FAX, Web address, statements related to district/school initiatives, and/or a short legal disclaimer addressing confidentiality. Font formatting is optional.
  - f. Employees are required to retain/archive all messages they send "that are used to perpetuate, communicate, or formalize knowledge" and those that are received by other agencies in connection with official business. Non-essential emails that do not qualify as Public Record should be regularly deleted.
5. Emails containing student educational information should be limited to public/quantitative information (name, address, FCAT test scores, grades, AR scores, etc.) and SHOULD ONLY BE SENT TO THOSE WITH AN EDUCATIONAL NEED TO KNOW. Emails containing student behavioral, disciplinary, mental or physical health, ESE, or economic information should be treated with a higher level of care and should only be emailed to specific EDUCATORS with an educational need to know. Parents and guardians must submit a written request for any non-public record information regarding their student that they wish to receive via email. Further, they must confirm their continued desire to receive said email communication prior to the sending of each such email. SCHOOLS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO USE OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION WHEN SENDING NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS; however, if the information is requested by a parent or guardian to be received via email, the school will use the following steps.
- a. Parent/Guardian written request parent/guardian during a conference.
  - b. A staff member maintains the original and gives a copy of the signed form to site administrator.
  - c. Parent/Guardian emails teacher or other staff member at the school to request the information addressed in the initial form, each time the information is desired.

### **Social Media and Networking Guidelines**

The following Washington County Social Media and Social Networking guidelines are provided to help Washington County School District employees use social media and networking effectively, protect their professional and personal reputations, and follow state and/or district rules and policies. These guidelines have been developed from respected online education and industry sources. These guidelines are not intended to restrict your participation in social networking but rather to provide some direction if you choose to engage in social networking.

1. During the work day, employees will refrain from participating on any social networking Web site for personal reasons, even from personal equipment (i.e., their own cell phone, personal laptop, netbook, etc.)
  2. Employees should avoid posting personal comments – on their page or someone else’s page – no matter whose equipment it is during lunch time and/or breaks since such activities will leave time-stamps that could be misinterpreted by others.
  3. District Employees shall use caution and good judgment when using electronic communications (e.g., text messaging) and social networking sites. It is vital that when participating in internet social media in a professional capacity that you are honest about whom you are, you are thoughtful before you post, and you respect the purpose of the community where you are posting.
  4. You do not have control of what others may post on social networking sites; therefore, be aware that your conduct in your private life may affect your professional life. Be vigilant about what others post about you or on your page and, if necessary, take steps to remove comments that pose a risk to you or the District.
5. Communication with students using social media:
- a. Communicating with students on a social network increases an employee’s personal liability. It is advised that employees use great caution when creating “personal” social network pages, web pages, etc., that permit social interaction with students currently enrolled in the District.
  - b. Employees should notify parents of their intention to use social media to communicate with the student and the intended purpose of such communications. All ethical expectations for appropriate employee/student relationships should be followed.
  - c. Employees should refrain from providing their personal e-mail address to students currently enrolled in the District.

- d. Employees should only provide their official District e-mail address as a way to communicate with students or parents regarding District and/or school-related business.
6. Refer to Student AUPs regarding parent permissions prior to posting student, pictures, names, or works on the Web. Note that parent permission only extends to school related sites, not personal employee sites.
  7. It is urged that any information posted to or communicated through a social networking site not bring disfavor, embarrassment, or condemnation to the employee, student, or school district.
  8. Be respectful to Washington County District Schools, other employees, parents, partners, and students.
  9. Be aware that your online presence and actions captured via images, posts, or comments reflect on the teaching profession.
  10. Avoid discussing district policies or work-related legal proceedings or controversies, including communications with district attorneys.
  11. Avoid referencing or citing district partners without their express consent.
  12. Private or personal information about other employees or students should not be disclosed. Information published in your social media posts should comply with the district's Data Security, Confidentiality, and Privacy policy. This also applies to comments posted on others' blogs, forums, and social networking sites.
  13. Avoid unprofessional behavior with respect to social media and networking.
  14. Behave professionally in your relationships with students. You are an educator with professional responsibility for the care of minor students. The differentiation of those roles is significant. There is a fine line between building a warm and caring relationship with students and becoming too personal with them. Be aware of that line and avoid crossing over into unprofessional behavior, e.g. spending private time with a student, exchanging text messages of a personal nature, or giving students access to your personal Facebook page or personal blog.

**Washington County District Schools**  
**Employee Acceptable Use Policy Agreement Form**

**Acceptable Use Agreement for Students**

Please read this document carefully before signing. No student will be given internet access unless the parent/ guardian sign this policy that announces the possible risks of using the internet. The school district provides internet filters and takes every reasonable precaution to ensure that internet use is safe. However, students may attempt to by pass the school filters or use their home computer to expose themselves to the following risks:

- Sharing offensive websites with other students
- Sending and receiving inappropriate e-mail, blogs and other prohibited messages
- Sharing offensive material created at home
- Sending or receiving libelous electronic messages
- Engaging in the violation of criminal and civil laws
- Illegally uploading or downloading copyrighted material
- Using your child's picture in a false light
- Violating your child's privacy regarding health and other personal issues

The Washington County School District provides Internet access to students for educational purposes only. The use of the Internet is necessary for many school research projects and online classes. Misuse of the Internet violates school board policy and subjects your child to disciplinary consequences. Additionally, your child may incur civil and criminal penalties under Florida and Federal law for misuse of the Internet. Some of the misuses are as follows:

1. Using proxy sites to avoid the district filter

2. Sending and distributing offensive material on district computers or school grounds
3. Sending cyber-threats of death, bodily harm, damage to property to students or staff (i.e., cyber bullying)
4. Creating offensive materials on home computers and distributing them on school grounds
5. Using their own portable devices to distribute offensive material on school grounds
6. Attempting to gain access to or using program administrative passwords or district staff passwords

**General guidelines include but are not limited to the following:**

1. The student should have no expectation of privacy at anytime while using district resources, nor at home when it pertains to school business (such as when writing about other students or district employees).
2. The district is authorized to monitor e-mail logs and Internet histories of students and does so.
3. Students should use the Internet/network for appropriate educational purposes and research.
4. Students should use the Internet/network only with the permission of designated school staff.
5. Students should be considerate of other users on the network.
6. Cyber bullying is unlawful behavior.
7. Students must use appropriate language for school situations and must not use vulgar or profane language or images, including those with implied vulgarity and/or profanity.
8. Students should immediately report any security problems or breeches of these responsibilities to the supervising teacher.
9. Students must adhere to copyright laws and plagiarism rules when using the Internet.
10. Students must not share user IDs and passwords required to access e-mail and other programs.
11. Students must not give out personal information about themselves or where they live.
12. Students must not fill out forms on the Internet without parent/teacher permission.
13. Students must not send pictures of themselves through e-mail.
14. Students may not have access to e-commerce or publicly provided Internet Service Providers or e-mail services. Students will receive district-approved e-mail accounts upon teacher request and parent permission if the accounts are needed for educational projects.
15. Students must not use proxy avoidance sites (sites that allow the user to bypass the district Internet filter). Use of these sites violates this contract and could result in loss of Internet access and/or other disciplinary actions.
16. Students are required to access the Internet only through district-provided, filtered equipment. Under no circumstances are students to use any personal device (e.g., air card, smart phone, Palm, or other Internet data device) that by passes this requirement unless prior approval has been given by the school administration and approved by the District Technology Department.
17. Students must not intentionally degrade or disrupt Internet network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, unauthorized redirection of school web pages, or violating copyright laws.
18. Students must not attach or transfer media from a personal storage device to district hardware without permission from an appropriate staff member (i.e., teachers must ensure that a virus scan is performed).
19. Students must not work directly on teacher, school, or district department websites without express, written permission from the district Web Administrator and Director of Technical Services.

- 20. Students must not create or work directly on "live" school club/organization websites (e.g., robotics team websites) or any website that represents the district. Students should work on local copies of these websites, which can then be published on a district-approved Web server by an appropriate staff member.
- 21. Students must not construct websites using content or links that violate state or federal laws.
- 22. Students must not use the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers and other staff.

Upon signing this document you agree that your child will obey all school computer use policies, civil and criminal laws. In the event your child notifies you they are receiving computer messages threatening death, bodily harm, or destruction to property, you agree to report this event immediately to both law enforcement and the Washington County School District.

As parent/guardian of this student, I understand the risks associated with allowing my child to use the Internet. Furthermore, in signing this policy, I affirm that through this document the school district made a reasonable attempt to educate me on the known potential risks of using the Internet and the school's rules and goals of Internet use. Based on this adequate notice, I agree not to hold the Washington County School District responsible for materials acquired or contacts made on the network.

Based on reading this Acceptable Use Policy, I have determined that the benefits of my child having access to the Internet outweigh the risks. I also agree that I will properly supervise my child's computer activity at home and will advise the Washington County School District immediately if I discover that my child is violating this use agreement at home or at school. Additionally, I agree to notify the Washington County School District immediately if I discover my child or my child's fellow students are committing civil and criminal violations of the law. Failure to report this behavior is negligent supervision and relieves the school of any liability that flows from this behavior if the school could not have reasonably foreseen this type of behavior on your child's home computer.

I understand that any conduct by my child named on the following page that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate and that such behavior may result in the termination of access and possible disciplinary action. I agree to compensate the Washington County School District for any expenses or costs it incurs as a result of my child's violation of the Internet policy or administrative procedure.

**RELEVANT STATE STATUTES**

- FL STATUTES: 784.048 (Cyber Stalking), 815.06(Computer-related Crimes), 1001.41- .43 (School Board Authority).

**RELEVANT FEDERAL LAWS AND RULINGS**

- PUBLIC LAW 106-554 TITLE XVII--CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION  
(<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html>)

**Washington County School District  
Acceptable Use Policy Agreement For Students**

**Acceptable Use Policy Agreement For Substitutes and Volunteers**

**Staff and Student Electronic Mail**

This policy establishes the use of the District's e-mail system designated for use by District-authorized users and applies to any and all electronic messages composed, sent or received by any authorized District user. Authorized users of e-mail are employees, temporary or contract employees, students, and any other individuals or groups issued District user e-mail accounts.

**District E-Mail**

E-mail is an official means of communication within the District. The use of e-mail is encouraged as a convenient, timely, and cost-effective communications medium. The purpose of providing an e-mail system to District employees and students is to advance the School District's business and educational needs, mission, and goals. Employees and students who use the District e-mail services are expected to do so responsibly and to comply with Florida and Federal laws, District policies and procedures, and established standards of professional conduct and personal courtesy.

### **Acceptable Use**

Use of District e-mail must support and be consistent with District objectives. All users must be aware of and understand the standards by which the District expects and requires users to conduct themselves. These standards are found in, among other things, the Code of Ethics for the Education Profession in the State of Florida, the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, the student code of conduct and the District's Network Security Standards. All users must familiarize themselves with all applicable standards. A user's failure to become familiar with these guidelines will not constitute a viable defense to or be a mitigating factor to a charge that an user has violated this policy.

### **Unacceptable Use**

Authorized users of the e-mail system may not use the District's e-mail system to perform any action or transmit any communication that would otherwise be prohibited in any other medium of communication.

Unacceptable and prohibited uses of District e-mail services include, but are not limited to:

1. Using profanity, obscenity, or other language which may be offensive to another user or any matter deemed to be obscene. Obscene material is material which
  - a. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find, taken as a whole appeals to prurient interests;
  - b. Depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct as defined by state law;
  - c. Or taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
2. Transmitting any material that is in violation of Federal, State, and local laws, or of Board policies, regulations, or guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, material that contains statements that would violate an individual's civil or constitutional rights or constitute harassment or trade secrets or copyrighted material without the consent of the owner or copyright holder.
3. "Spoofing" where spoofing is defined as the act of disguising the sender of an e-mail by replacing the name in the "from" or header fields, sending e-mails while signed on as a different user, or otherwise intentionally misleading the recipient as to the identity of the actual sender.
4. Sending anonymous e-mail.
5. Engaging in any activity designed to view the e-mails of other individuals without authority or permission.
6. Using the District's global distribution lists for purposes that are not work/school related.
7. Initiating or forwarding "chain-letters" or petitions.
8. Using the e-mail system for political activities. In addition to the prohibition against using the District's e-mail system to provide publicity for any candidate for public office, users are forbidden from using the District's private network for lobbying, campaigning, or soliciting on behalf of any candidate for public office or using e-mail to support or oppose a political or union position or to engage in political or union activity. This includes sending messages regarding these topics into the District's e-mail system from an external e-mail account.
9. "Spamming," or the sending of unwanted, unsolicited and/or unnecessary messages to large numbers of people, usually with the purpose of advertising a product, event, service, or lobbying for a specific political position or promoting an individual's opinion. In many cases, the sender is unknown to the recipients. The District has the right to block and/or remove any e-mail that it determines is spam.
10. Violating Board policies, including, but not limited to, Student Code of Conduct, Florida's Code of Ethics of the Education Profession, The Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, and Board Policy. Board members, students, and employees are expected to prevent any entity from sending political e-mail into the District e-mail system in the Board, student, or employee's name.

### **Consequences of Inappropriate Use**

The e-mail system is the property of the District. The District has the right to monitor the e-mail system for unacceptable use according to Federal, State, local and District laws, policies and rules. Any user who violates this rule is subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

1. Work-site supervisors, Principals and District administrators are authorized to determine whether an employee is in compliance with this rule and is using the District's e-mail system in an appropriate and acceptable manner. This

includes randomly accessing the user's e-mail for the purpose of determining compliance with this rule.

2. The District also has the right to:

- a. Review e-mails stored in the network for the purpose of maintaining adequate and necessary file server space, and
- b. Modify or delete e-mails or attachments that may contain computer viruses or any other computer code that could damage or destroy any portion of the network.

3. Users of the District e-mail system shall not expect that e-mail generated or received via the District's e-mail system will remain private. Users should be aware that:

- a. Sensitive and confidential data, including data considered exempt from public disclosure, may be viewed by persons other than the intended recipient. Information that is exempt or confidential under state and federal law may need to be encrypted, blocked out, or not transmitted by e-mail.
- b. E-mail is legally discoverable and may be used in court proceedings. Users are notified that there is no individual right to privacy in the use of the District's e-mail system. Administration has an absolute right to monitor employees' and students' use of the e-mail system at its discretion. Users are warned that although e-mail often has the feel of a private conversation, it is in fact, not private. Further, e-mail generated using the District's email system is subject to public disclosure, in accordance with Florida's Public Records Act, F.S. Chapter 119.

### **Personal Use**

The intended use of the District e-mail system is for District/School-related purposes, not for personal use or other purposes. In limited instances, some personal use of the District e-mail system may be permitted. This use is a privilege, not a right. Limited, incidental personal use of the District e-mail system such as sending short, brief e-mails to a friend or relative is permissible so long as the user complies with the Utilization Policy and with State and Federal laws and Board policies governing the use of e-mail. Any abuse of this privilege will be handled in the same manner as described above.

Limited incidental personal use must not tie-up or otherwise obstruct system resources in any way, interfere with an individual's job performance and/or duties, advertise or promote a product or service, publicize unsanctioned, non-District activities without approval, promote political candidates or positions as outlined above, include attachments that use excessive storage (multiple pictures, video clips, etc.), and/or be used in any way that is detrimental to the District. In addition, employees are prohibited from storing e-mail that is personal in nature in the District's e-mail system

The above list is for illustrative purposes only and is not exhaustive. Users must exercise good judgment in using the e-mail system and not abuse the privilege.

### **Retention**

The definition of a public record does not depend on the format of the record, regardless of the medium. All Federal, State, and local rules and regulations regarding retention of records, memos, and documents apply to documents and materials created by e-mail.

Users of District e-mail are responsible for retaining e-mail that, by law, must be retained, including e-mail that is subject to a litigation hold. E-mail that should be retained may be stored electronically or printed and saved as a hard-copy. In either case, such records must be available for public access, regardless of the medium in which it is maintained. The State and the courts do acknowledge, however, that much of what is put in e-mail does not qualify as a public record and may be deleted without permission once it no longer has value.

F.S. 119.011, 257.

## **Retention**

The definition of a public record does not depend on the format of the record, regardless of the medium. All Federal, State, and local rules and regulations regarding retention of records, memos, and documents apply to documents and materials created by e-mail.

Users of District Student e-mail are responsible for retaining e-mail that, by law, must be retained, including e-mail that is subject to a litigation hold. E-mail that should be retained may be stored electronically or printed and saved as a hard-copy. In either case, such records must be available for public access, regardless of the medium in which it is maintained. The State and the courts do acknowledge, however, that much of what is put in e-mail does not qualify as a public record and may be deleted without permission once it no longer has value.

F.S.119.011, 257.

## **Network Security**

WCSD will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent users from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful to minors. Attempts to circumvent or 'get around' the content filter are strictly prohibited, and will be considered a violation of this policy. WCSD will also monitor the online activities of users through direct observation and/or other technological means. WCSD reserves the right to take immediate action regarding activities 1) that create security and/or safety issues for the WCSD network, users, schools, network, or computer resources; 2) that expend WCSD resources on content it determines lacks legitimate educational content/purpose; or 3) other activities as determined by WCSD as inappropriate.

## **Inappropriate Activity**

1. Violating any state or federal law or municipal ordinance, such as: accessing or transmitting pornography of any kind, obscene depictions, harmful materials, materials that encourage others to violate the law, confidential information or copyrighted materials.
2. Criminal activities that can be punished under law.
3. Selling or purchasing illegal items or substances.
4. Obtaining and/or using anonymous email sites, spamming, or spreading viruses.
5. Causing harm to others or damage to their property.
6. Using profane, abusive, or impolite language; threatening, harassing, or making damaging or false statements about others or accessing, transmitting, or downloading offensive, harassing, or disparaging materials.
7. Deleting, copying, modifying, or forging other users' names, emails, files or data, disguising one's identity, impersonating other users, or sending anonymous email.
8. Damaging computer equipment, files, data or the network in any way, including intentionally accessing, transmitting or downloading computer viruses or other harmful files or programs, or disrupting any computer system performance.
9. Using any WCSD computer or personally-owned devices to pursue "hacking" - internal or external to WCSD - or attempting to access information protected by privacy laws.



10. Accessing, transmitting or downloading large files, including "chain letters" or any type of peer-to-peer file sharing.
11. Using websites, email, networks, or other technology for political uses or personal gain.
12. WCSD Internet and intranet property must not be used for personal benefit.
13. Users must not intentionally access, create, store or transmit material that may be deemed to be offensive, indecent, obscene, intimidating, or hostile; or that harasses, insults or attacks others.
14. Advertising, promoting non- WCSD sites or commercial efforts and events.
15. Users must adhere to all copyright laws.
16. Users are not permitted to use the network for non- academic related bandwidth-intensive activities such as network games or transmission of large audio/video files or serving as a host for such activities.
17. Users may not use audio recording devices (video camera or device with a camera, e.g. cell phone, laptop, tablet, etc.) to record media or take photos during school unless they have permission from both a staff member and those whom they are recording.
18. School administration and WCSD technology staff may search the users' devices if they feel school rules have been violated, which may include, but are not limited to, audio and video recording, photographs taken on school property that violate the privacy of others, or other issues regarding bullying, etc.

In using the network and Internet, users should not reveal personal information such as home address or telephone number. Personally identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without the permission of a parent or guardian. Users should never give out private or confidential information about themselves or others on the Internet.

A "Usage Permission Form" must be completed by the owner of the personal device or peripheral equipment and by the issuing principal or supervising administrator before a personally-owned computing device or peripheral can be used on District premises and/or at District-sponsored events. The form will specify the sanctioned uses of the device or peripheral, the responsibilities of the owner of the device or peripheral (including the responsibilities of the parent or guardian in the case of sanctioned student usage, as acknowledged by a witnessed signature), the responsibilities of the school or District department sanctioning the District usage, and the serial #, model #, and manufacturer of the device or peripheral (see detailed explanation of these responsibilities and sanctioned usages in the language below). A copy of the District "Usage Permission Form" appears at the end of this addendum. The original District "Usage Permission Form" will be kept on file at the issuing school or District department, and a copy will be provided to the student.

Washington District Schools supports and respects each family's right to restrict access. If you choose to restrict your child's access, please fill out the Internet Use Exclusion Request and return it to the school.

### **Student Media Usage**

To enhance communication with parents, Washington District hosts websites for each school. School staff members may publish student photos and/or work unless a **Student Media Exclusion Request** is on file at the school.

These guidelines will be followed:

- Only students' first names will be published with photos and/or work.
- Copyright notices will appear on all sites to eliminate the use of students' photos
- and/or work without express written permission from the parent.

*Washington District Schools supports and respects each family's right to restrict release. If you choose to restrict your child's media being published on any district-related website, please fill out the Student Media Exclusion Request and return it to the school.*