

**Board Policy
Internet Acceptable Use**

It is the belief of the school system that the use of telecommunications, including the Internet, in instructional programs is an educational strategy that facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing, and access to information. Use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational mission, goals, and objectives of the school system.

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education that the school system shall be compliant with the "Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act of 2024" (The Act) and have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying "technology protection measure," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(1) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000 (CIPA) and is compliant with The Act;
2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the Superintendent and his/her designee(s), including administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in CIPA and The Act.
3. Procedures to provide reasonable opportunities and procedures for parents/guardians of students to confer and collaborate with school administrators and teachers regarding appropriate internet access for such students;
4. Procedures to provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;
5. Prohibitions against students accessing social media platforms through the use of computer equipment, communications services, or internet access that is operated, owned, leased, and made available to students by the School District. Students shall be permitted to access social media platforms only: a) As directed by school personnel; b) For the exclusive purpose of accessing and utilizing age-appropriate educational resources; c) Under the supervision of such school personnel; and d) During the course of a school related activity;
6. Procedures promoting the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
7. Methods to prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unauthorized activities by minors online;
8. Methods to prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
9. Provisions in the Code of Conduct providing punishment for students violating this policy;

Board Policy
Internet Acceptable Use

10. Provisions for students age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services, behaviors that may constitute cyber bullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyber bullying.
11. Appropriate enforcement measures in response to:
 - i. Students against students and school employees who willfully intentionally violate the acceptable-use policy, whether or not such student or school employee was, at the time of such violation, on school property, on a school bus or other school vehicle, at a school related function, or elsewhere, provided that such measures include disciplinary measures; and
 - ii. A person who is not a student or school employee who violates the acceptable-use policy, whether or not such person was, at the time of such violation, on school property, on a school bus or other school vehicle, at a school related function, or elsewhere;
12. Provide for administrative procedures to: enforce the acceptable-use policy; for administrative procedures to address complaints regarding possible violations of the acceptable-use policy which, at a minimum, require that each complaint is responded to in writing by an appropriate school or local school system official; and provide for expedited review and resolution of a claim that the application of the acceptable-use policy is denying a student or school employee access to material that is not within the prohibition of the acceptable-use policy.
13. Procedures to provide each parent/guardian shall be provided a copy of the acceptable-use policy, as well as the student Code of Conduct addressing its enforcement and related consequences.
14. Procedures providing that upon written request, each parent/guardian shall be provided a copy of the school district's acceptable use policy, information regarding the administrative procedures in effect to enforce the acceptable use policy, and to address complaints about such enforcement. This will include information about what social media platforms have been or are intended to be accessed in accordance with section 5 including prohibiting their child from accessing one or more of those social media platforms.

No revision of this policy shall be implemented until such revision is approved by the state board. If the state board fails to provide a notice of noncompliance for the revision within 60 days after the submission is received, the District may proceed with the implementation of the revision.

The principal of a school may disable the software program or online server that is utilizing technology protection measure used to block access to material or take other reasonable steps for an adult or for a minor who provides written consent from his or her parent or guardian to enable access to the Internet for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

Board Policy
Internet Acceptable Use

Webster County School District

Georgia Code	Description
O.C.G.A. 16-09-90	Georgia Computer Systems Protection Act
O.C.G.A. 16-09-91	Computer Related Crime
O.C.G.A. 16-09-92	Definitions
O.C.G.A. 16-09-93	Computer crimes defined
O.C.G.A. 16-09-93.1	Misleading transmittal
O.C.G.A. 16-09-94	Violations

US Code

20 USC 6777	Internet Safety
47 USC 254(h)	Universal Service

Adopted: April 10, 2006
Revised: September 9, 2025
Updated: April 14, 2026