Student Access to Networked Information Resources

The County Board of Education intends that technological resources provided by the County Office of Education be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of County Office of Education computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities in accordance with County Office regulations and the County Office’s Acceptable Use Agreement.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying.

The Superintendent or designee, with input from appropriate staff, shall regularly review this policy, any accompanying administrative regulation, and other relevant procedures to help ensure that the County Office keeps abreast of changing technologies and circumstances.

Use of County Office Computers for Online Services/Internet Access

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all County Office of Education computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, and that the operation of such measures is enforced.

The County Board of Education desires to protect students from access to inappropriate matter on the Internet. The Superintendent or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet. He/she also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students and student information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

Student use of County Office of Education computers to access social networking sites is allowable only in an instructional context and under supervision of a staff member. Access to social networking sites for personal use is prohibited.
Before using the County Office of Education’s technological resources, each student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return an Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. The student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the County Office or any County Office staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or users' mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the County Office and County Office personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

Staff shall supervise students while they are using online services and may ask teacher aides, student aides, and volunteers to assist in this supervision.

The following are not permitted:

1. Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
2. Using obscene language
3. Harassing, insulting or attacking others
4. Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
5. Violating copyright laws
6. Using others' passwords
7. Trespassing in others’ folders, work or files
8. Employing the network for commercial purposes
9. Accessing, posting, submitting, publishing or displaying harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, disruptive or disparaging of others based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion or political beliefs or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics
10. Disclosing, using or disseminating personal identification information about themselves or others when on any web site or entering chat rooms or engaging in other forms of direct electronic communication
11. Using the system to encourage the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, or promoting unethical practices or any activity prohibited by law or Board policy.

Students shall report any security problem or misuse of the county’s equipment or services to the teacher, Superintendent’s designee or Superintendent.

The County Office of Education reserves the right to monitor or read any materials in a user’s folder to ensure proper use of the system.

Sanctions

1. Violations may result in a loss of access.

2. Additional disciplinary action may be determined consistent with existing practice regarding inappropriate language or behavior.

3. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Legal References:

Education Code 51006  Computer education and resources
Education Code 51007  Education technology
Education Code 60044 Prohibited instructional materials
Education Code 234.1 Safe Place to Learn Act
Education Code 32261 Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985
Penal Code 313 Harmful matter
Penal Code 502 Computer crimes, remedies
Penal Code 653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety
United States Code, Title 15, 6501-6506 Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act
United States Code, Title 20, 6751-6777 Enhancing Education Through Technology Act, Title II, Part D, especially: 6777 Internet safety
United States Code, Title 47, 254 Universal service discounts (E-rate)
Code of Federal Regulations, Title 16, 312.1-312.12 Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act
Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, 54.520 Internet safety policy and technology protection measures, E-rate discounts

Adopted SMCBE 06/20/12