

A. INTRODUCTION

The Alleghany County School System provides students with technology resources to support the Alleghany County School System's educational and organizational objectives. This policy establishes proper and improper student uses of these resources in conjunction with other related policies. Specifically, student users shall be familiar with and comply with this policy, the Technology Resources General Provisions (Policy 10000), General Use Policy for All Users (Policy 10100), and any other applicable policies and rules.

B. ENFORCEMENT

School officials retain reasonable discretion to apply this and related Alleghany County School System policies to determine when a proper or improper use exists and what sanctions, if any, may apply.

C. ALLEGHANY COUNTY SCHOOLS AND PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Alleghany County School System and its staff seek to take all reasonable measures to guide, monitor, and protect students in their use of Alleghany County School System's technology resources, consistent with student age and maturity. Parents, however, are primarily responsible for instructing their children in the proper values governing the use of such resources. The Alleghany County School System requests that parents, in cooperation with the Alleghany County Schools, communicate to their children an understanding of responsible and safe use of these resources and to monitor their children's use of such resources at home or anywhere outside the Alleghany County School System's jurisdiction.

D. PERMISSIBLE USES

Alleghany County School System technology resources are to be used for educational, organizational, and communication purposes directly related to the Alleghany County School System's educational mission and program. Unless otherwise prohibited, limited personal or incidental use of Alleghany County School System technology resources is permitted if such use complies with these policies, is reasonably limited, and does not interfere or threaten to interfere with Alleghany County School System's operational and educational objectives.

E. PROHIBITED USES

STUDENTS SHALL NOT ENGAGE IN PROHIBITED USES OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES. PROHIBITED USES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

1. General Prohibited Uses

General prohibited uses include all uses prohibited in the Alleghany County School System's General Use Policy (Policy 10100).

2. Social Networking Sites

A student may not use social networking sites unless such use is explicitly authorized by an appropriate school official, is used for school-related instructional purposes, and such use is consistent with Alleghany County School System and individual school policies. In addition, a student may not use technology resources, including the Internet and e-mail, to arrange for him/herself or any other student to meet a person about whom the student does not have reasonable and secure knowledge.

Social Networking sites include, but are not limited to Internet sites like MySpace or Facebook, or Blogs and other Internet sites involving publication or interaction of a personal nature.

3. Disclosing Personal Identifying Information

In addition to related prohibitions in the General Use Policy (Policy 10100) students are prohibited, without proper authorization, from disclosing personal identifying information about themselves or others through the use of Alleghany County School System's or personal technology resources, e.g., Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), cell phones, pagers or other communications devices, while on school premises or during school functions.

"Personal identifying information" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a person's name, phone number, address, e-mail address, social security number, or other information that is reasonably likely to allow a person's identity to be determined from disclosing such information outside the School System community.

4. Off-campus and Personal Technology Use

The Alleghany County School System reserves the right, to the maximum extent permitted by law, to discipline a student for off-campus or other personal electronic technology use (e.g., communications generated via private computers and/or Internet accounts). This includes uses that cause or are likely to cause a substantial disruption or material interference with the Alleghany County School System's educational objectives or

operations, or that otherwise injure or threaten to injure persons or property within the Alleghany County School System community. In addition, violators may also be subject to civil or criminal actions and penalties under local, state, and federal laws.

5. Personal Electronic Devices

Except as permitted by this policy or otherwise authorized, no student shall, during regular school hours or while participating in school-sponsored curricular functions, turn on or use a personal electronic device. The Alleghany County Board of Education recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices have become an important tool through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students in middle and high schools are permitted to possess such devices on school property so long as the devices are not activated, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel. Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios and similar devices.

“Personal electronic devices” include, but are not necessarily limited to, cellular phones, pagers, two-way radios, CD/DVD/MP3 or other audio/video players, electronic games, PDAs, laser pointers, or any other similar devices not owned, issued or controlled by the Alleghany County School System.

Any device used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by the principal or his/her designee upon his/her discretion and consistent with other Alleghany County School System policies and rules. Similarly, the principal or his/her designee may determine the terms under which the device may be returned to the student or student’s guardian. School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed or visible in violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless communication devices will be returned only to the student’s parent or guardian.

Violations of this policy will result in consequences as provided in the school’s student behavior management plan (see Policy 4302, School Plan for Management of Student Behavior) and the Student Code of Conduct. Aggravating factors may subject a student to more stringent disciplinary consequences, up to and including suspension. Such aggravating factors include, but are not limited to, using wireless communication devices (1) to reproduces images of tests, obtain unauthorized access to school information or assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; (2) to bully or harass other students; (3) to send illicit text messages; and (4) to take and/or send illicit photographs.

Notwithstanding the prohibited uses identified above, exceptions to such prohibited uses shall apply in the following circumstances:

- a. When the principal or his/her designee permits a student or students, in case-by-case instances, to turn on or use such electronic device(s) if there is a reasonable need to do so, or
- b. Emergency conditions exist which seriously threaten one's safety or property, and such use is the only reasonable means of avoiding such threat, or
- c. When the principal or his/her designee determines that such use, generally, is otherwise necessary or prudent and is not in violation of any other law or policy
- d. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes, provided that they supervise the students during such use.

Personal electronic devices may be used after regular school hours and at extra-curricular school functions when such use is (1) consistent with other student conduct policies, (2) does not or is not likely to disrupt any school function or operation, and (3) has not otherwise been prohibited by the principal or his/her designee.

In accordance with Policy 4342, Student Searches, a student's wireless communication device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law or a school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of a cellular phone or other personal wireless communication devices.

Adopted: September 8, 2008

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