

## **Acceptable Use of Computer Technologies, Network Services, and Internet Resources**

### **Purpose**

The Guttenberg School District prides itself in preparing students to be active participants in the global community and preparing them for success in life and in work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To this effort, the school district provides computer equipment, computer services, and Internet access to its pupils and staff for educational purposes only. The purpose of providing technology resources is to improve learning and teaching through research, teacher training, collaboration, dissemination and the use of global communication resources.

For the purpose of this Policy and Regulation, “computer networks/computers” includes, but is not limited to, the school district’s computer networks, computer servers, computers, other computer hardware and software, Internet equipment and access, and any other computer related equipment.

### **STANDARDS FOR USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

The use of the network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Pupils are responsible for acceptable and appropriate behavior and conduct on school district computer networks/computers. Communications on the computer networks/computers are often public in nature and policies and regulations governing appropriate behavior and communications apply. The school district’s networks, Internet access, and computers are provided for pupils to conduct research, complete school assignments, and communicate with others. Access to computer networks/computers is given to pupils who agree to act in a considerate, appropriate, and responsible manner. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) permission is required for a pupil to access the school district’s computer networks/computers. Access entails responsibility and individual users of the district computer networks/computers are responsible for their behavior and communications over the computer networks/computers. It is presumed users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed and the permission they have been granted. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for the actions of individuals utilizing the computer networks/computers who violate the policies and regulations of the Board.

Computer networks/computer storage areas shall be treated in the same manner as other school storage facilities. School district personnel may review files and communications to maintain system integrity, confirm users are using the system responsibly, and ensure compliance with Federal and State laws that regulate Internet safety. Therefore, no person should expect files stored on district servers would be private or confidential.

The following prohibited behavior and/or conduct using the school district's networks/computers is susceptible to disciplinary action and includes but is not limited to:

1. Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures;
2. Using obscene language and/or accessing material or visual depictions that are obscene as defined in section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code;
3. Using or accessing material or visual depictions that are child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code;
4. Using or accessing material or visual depictions that are harmful to minors including any pictures, images, graphic image files or other material or visual depictions that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
5. Depicting, describing, or representing in a patently offensive way, with respect to what is suitable for minors, sexual acts or conduct; or taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors;
6. Cyberbullying;
7. Inappropriate online behavior, including inappropriate interaction with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms;
8. Harassing, insulting, or attacking others;
9. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks/computers;
10. Violating copyright laws;
11. Using another's password;
12. Trespassing in another's folders, work or files;
13. Intentionally wasting limited resources, including printing resources;
14. Employing the computer networks/computers for commercial purposes; and/or
15. Engaging in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer networks/computers are provided.

## **Online Conduct**

Any action by a pupil or other user of the school district's computer networks/computers that is determined by school district personnel to constitute an inappropriate use of the district's computer networks/computers or to improperly restrict or inhibit other persons from using and enjoying those resources is strictly prohibited and may result in limitation on or termination of an offending person's access and other consequences in compliance with Board policy and regulation. The user specifically agrees not to submit, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or otherwise illegal or offensive material; nor shall a user encourage the use, sale, or distribution of controlled substances. Transmission of material, information or software in violation of any local, State or Federal law is also prohibited and is a breach of the Consent and Waiver Agreement.

Pupils and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) specifically agree to indemnify the school district and school district personnel for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the Board relating to, or arising out of any breach of this section by the pupil.

Individuals violating this Policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated in Board Policy and Regulation 2361 and other appropriate discipline, which includes but is not limited to:

1. Use of computer networks/computers only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer privileges;
5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension from school;
7. Expulsion from school; and/or
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.