



Whitfield County Schools

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Tradition • Purpose • Excellence

Whitfield County Schools Acceptable Use Agreement of Electronic Media for Students

The Whitfield County Schools Board of Education (WCSBOE) recognizes that digital tools (including the internet, instructional apps, websites, communication platforms and cloud-based applications and resources) can provide access to a wide variety of platforms that promote learning. Use of electronic resources must be in support of, and consistent with the vision, mission, and goals established by the WCSBOE and for instructional purposes. All users of Whitfield County School District (WCSD) networks, services, and applications must maintain strict compliance with all applicable ethical and legal rules and regulations regarding access. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that all WCSD technology resources are utilized in an appropriate, ethical, and lawful manner. WCSD technology should be used for legitimate educational reasons only, and not for personal use. All users of WCSD technology resources and facilities must agree to and sign the terms of this acceptable use agreement.

Strict compliance with all applicable ethical and legal rules and regulations that must be maintained by all users of WCSD networks, services, and applications. Users must respect intellectual property rights and understand that school system data accessible over the network, regardless of the computer or device being used, constitutes property. All electronic, telephonic, and communications transmitted by, received from or stored in these systems are property of the Whitfield County School District. Users of such systems should have no expectation of privacy when using WCSD computers, network access, equipment, or privately-owned equipment connected to a WCSD network.

It is important to note that with a global network, it is impossible to control or predict all materials a user may accidentally or purposefully discover. Access to the Internet provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world. Students and his/her parents must understand that neither the WCSD nor any district staff member controls the content of the information available on these other systems. Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes may be offensive. WCSD does not condone the use of such materials. Therefore, it is imperative that the user be held accountable for the appropriate utilization of this technology. All WCSD computers and networks are filtered in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

The definition of WCSD information and data resources includes, but is not limited to, any computer, tablet, phone, server or network, or access provided or supported by WCSD, including the Internet.

Login information, usernames and passwords are confidential. The student is responsible for keeping login information secure. At no time should anyone log in with another individual's username or password.

The user of the system is the student using WCSD technology.

WCSD, and privately owned technology and electronic resources must not be used to:

- Harm other people (including cyber bullying and harassment).
- Interfere with other people's work.
- Steal property.
- Gain unauthorized access to other people's files or programs.
- Gain unauthorized access to online resources by using another individual's password.
- Make changes to the hardware or software configuration of any machine, including installing or deleting any software.

- Improperly use the network, including introducing software viruses and/or bypassing local school or office security policies.
- Steal or damage data and/or computers and network equipment.
- Download copyrighted software, music, or images, or violate any copyright laws.
- Video record instruction or instructional activities without explicit permission of the teacher or the principal.
- Access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, hate-oriented, profane, obscene, or sexually explicit material.

Under no circumstances are students to upload/install any materials, program, files, or applications onto WCSD computers, network equipment, or any computer systems without obtaining prior written consent. Students are responsible for ensuring that any machine that connects to the WCSD networks, or media introduced to any WCSD machine are virus free and do not contain any unauthorized or inappropriate files.

Parents that allow their child to bring privately-owned computers/other technology devices to school are personally responsible for the equipment. Responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the equipment rests solely with the student/parent. Any damage or theft to the equipment is the responsibility of the student/parent. District technicians and/or school-based personnel will not service or repair hardware or software owned by the student/staff member. No internal components belonging to the district shall be placed in any personal equipment, whether as enhancements, upgrades or replacement.

Access to technology resources is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use is subject to local school disciplinary action, up to and including a disciplinary tribunal hearing, or district level disciplinary action in accordance with the WCSD student code of conduct. Individual schools may establish additional guidelines for use of electronic resources.

Failure to follow these guidelines may violate Georgia Laws related to computer crimes as set forth in the Official Code of Georgia, O.C.G.A. 16-9-90, 16-9-91, 16-9-93, and 16-9-93.1, as well as Title XVII of United States Public Law 106-554, known as the Children’s Internet Protection Act and 20 USC 1232g, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Such actions can also lead to disciplinary actions, up to and including loss of access to WCSD technology resources and further disciplinary actions as defined by existing WCSD policies or student code of conduct.

WCSD does not guarantee the privacy or security of any item stored on or transmitted by any privately owned computers. All technology use, whether WCSD owned or privately owned, is subject to auditing, as well as live and archived monitoring where appropriate. School Administrators may revoke the user’s access and suspend the right to use the privately owned computer at district facilities if at any time it is determined that the user is engaged in unauthorized activity or is violating the Acceptable Use Agreement.

I have read the Electronic Device and Internet Agreement information and agree to abide by these guidelines. I understand that the use of the school network, including emails, may be monitored.

STUDENT NAME

Last: _____ **First:** _____ **Middle:** _____

Grade: _____ **School:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PARENT SIGNATURE

I have read the Electronic Device and Internet Agreement information and agree to have my child abide by these guidelines. I understand that the use of the school network, including emails, may be monitored.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____