



## Internet Safety Policy

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Internet Safety Policy is to ensure the safety, privacy, and security of students, staff, and other stakeholders when accessing online resources. This policy is designed to protect against exposure to harmful or inappropriate material, ensure responsible use of digital technologies, and educate students on safe practices while online.

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### **1. Access to Inappropriate Material**

Poth ISD will employ technology protection measures to block or filter Internet access to materials that are obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). This applies to all devices accessing the Internet within the district's network.

### **Monitoring and Filtering**

- Poth ISD will use software tools to block access to inappropriate content.
  - Filtering mechanisms will be in place on all school devices and networks, including Wi-Fi.
  - Teachers and staff are responsible for supervising student internet use.
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### **2. Safe and Responsible Online Behavior**

Poth ISD is committed to educating students on proper Internet use, digital citizenship, and the ethical use of online resources. This will include:

## Education and Training

- **Internet Safety Curriculum:** The district will implement a digital literacy and internet safety curriculum for students at all grade levels.
  - **Staff Training:** Teachers and staff will receive training on monitoring student use and guiding safe behavior online.
  - **Parent Involvement:** The district will provide resources to parents to help them reinforce internet safety at home.
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## 3. Protection of Student Data and Privacy

Poth ISD is committed to safeguarding student privacy and data. Personal information about students, including photos, will only be shared with parental consent and under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

### Data Privacy and Protection

- The district will implement measures to protect students' personally identifiable information (PII).
  - Staff will be trained to recognize phishing attempts and other online security threats.
  - The district will ensure compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) for students under the age of 13.
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## 4. Cyberbullying and Harassment

Poth ISD will not tolerate any form of cyberbullying or harassment through the use of school-provided technology or while using the district's network.

### Prevention and Response

- The district will monitor online activities to detect instances of cyberbullying.
  - Procedures will be established to report, investigate, and address cases of cyberbullying in alignment with the district's anti-bullying policies.
  - Students and staff will receive education on recognizing and preventing cyberbullying.
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## 5. Responsible Use of Technology

All students and staff are expected to adhere to the district's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) regarding the appropriate use of school technology and Internet access.

## **Student Responsibilities**

- Students must follow school guidelines on ethical online behavior, including not sharing passwords, respecting intellectual property, and avoiding hacking or bypassing security systems.

## **Staff Responsibilities**

- Staff must enforce school policies and model appropriate use of digital resources.
  - Teachers are responsible for ensuring students are on-task when using the internet for classroom activities.
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## **6. Social Media Use**

While on district premises or using district devices, social media use should be aligned with educational goals. Inappropriate use of social media, including but not limited to sharing offensive content or disclosing private student information, will result in disciplinary action.

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## **7. Network Security**

To ensure a safe and secure digital environment, Poth ISD will implement safeguards to protect the integrity of the district's network.

### **Security Measures**

- Firewalls, antivirus software, and encryption tools will be employed to secure network access.
  - Passwords must be regularly updated and not shared.
  - Unauthorized access to district networks or devices will result in disciplinary action.
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## **8. Incident Reporting and Response**

Poth ISD will establish clear procedures for reporting incidents related to online safety, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, or network breaches.

### **Incident Response Team**

The district will maintain an incident response team to address any Internet safety breaches or concerns, including contacting law enforcement when necessary.

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## **9. Compliance and Review**

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually by the Poth ISD Technology Department and School Board to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, including CIPA and FERPA. Updates will be communicated to all stakeholders.

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Approved by Poth ISD Board of Trustees

Effective Date: November 18, 2024