

Mingo County Schools

Bylaws & Policies

7540 - COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

The Board of Education is committed to the effective use of technology to both enhance the quality of student learning and the efficiency of Board operations. However, the use of the Board's network and technology resources by students is a privilege, not a right. As a prerequisite to use of the Board's network, web-based applications, and other technology resources, students and their parents must sign and submit a Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Authorization form annually. (See also Policy 7540.03)

The Superintendent shall develop and implement a written District Technology Procedure (DTP). Procedures for proper acquisition of technology shall be set forth in the DTP. The DTP shall also provide guidance to staff and students concerning making safe, appropriate and ethical use of the Board's network(s) shall be set forth in the DTP. The DTP shall also inform both staff and students about disciplinary actions that will be taken if Board technology and/or networks are abused in any way or used in an inappropriate, illegal or unethical manner.

Further, safeguards shall be established, consistent with State Board of Education policy 2460. Accordingly, students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior including, but not limited to using social media to interact with others online; interacting with other individuals in chat rooms or on blogs; and, in recognizing what constitutes harassment, intimidation and bullying through means of telephone, wireless telephone, computer, pager, or any other electronic or wireless device (cyberbullying), understanding cyberbullying is a violation of Board policy, and learning appropriate responses if they are victims of cyberbullying.

Social media shall be defined as internet-based applications (such as Facebook, My Space, Twitter, et cetera) that turn communication into interactive dialogue between users. The Board authorizes the professional instructional staff to access social media from the Board's network, provided such access has an educational purpose for which the professional instructional staff member has the prior approval of the principal.

However, personal access and use of social media, blogs, or chat rooms from the Board's network is expressly prohibited and shall subject students to discipline in accordance with Board policy.

In order to assist educators in maintaining a professional relationship with students and to avoid situations that could lead to inappropriate relationships between school personnel and students, the following regulations apply to all school personnel. Failure to adhere to these regulations may result in disciplinary action and/or loss of licensure.

- A. School personnel will maintain a professional relationship with all school students, both inside and outside the classroom and while using any form of social media and other electronic communication. Unethical conduct includes but is not limited to committing any act of harassment as defined by WVBE and/or County policy; committing or soliciting any sexual act from any minor or any student regardless of age; soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or inappropriate relationship with a student, regardless of the age of the student; using inappropriate language including, but not limited to, swearing and improper sexual comments; taking inappropriate pictures (digital, photographic, or video) of students or exchanging any inappropriate pictures with students; or engaging in any other behavior that constitutes a violation of County policy or that is detrimental to the health and welfare of students.
- B. The viewing, storing, transmission, or downloading of pornography or sexually suggestive or sexually explicit material or text on a work computer or other electronic storage or communication device, whether at home or at work, by school personnel or anyone else to whom the school personnel has made the computer or other electronic storage or

communication device available, is prohibited. This same prohibition applies to a personal computer or other electronic storage or communication device while at school or a school activity.

- C. All information stored within work computers or servers is the property of the State, County or school, and the personnel using such computers/servers/networks have no expectation of privacy with respect to its contents.

The Superintendent shall annually review the DTP and report any recommended and/or mandatory changes, amendments or revisions to the Board.

State Board policy 2460
Children's Internet Protection Act

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