

Internet Safety and Use of Technology

Limiting Internet Access to Age-Appropriate Subject Matter/Materials - With respect to student access to the Internet on electronic devices owned by the Board, the Superintendent (and his/her designee) will engage in reasonable efforts to modify/restrict such devices so that they limit internet access by students to only age-appropriate subject matters and materials deemed age-appropriate by the Superintendent (and his/her designee). For example, these restrictions will be designed to thwart access to pictures that are obscene, that constitute child pornography, or that are otherwise harmful to minors. From time to time, the Superintendent (and his/her designee) will periodically engage in efforts to update and adjust such modifications/restrictions to continue their effectiveness.

Student Use of Internet and Electronic Communications - With respect to student access to the Internet on electronic devices owned by the Board, the Superintendent (and his/her designee) will engage in reasonable efforts to: (a) prioritize the safety and security of students when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication; (b) prohibit access by students to unlawfully obtained data or information, including hacking, or other unlawful online activity; and (c) prohibit access to websites, web applications, or software that exposes students to the disclosure, use, or dissemination of their personal information. To these ends, the Superintendent (or his/her designee) will ensure that each student handbook includes Board-approved rules and regulations concerning *Internet Safety & Acceptable Use of Computer Technology*, which set out rules related to the foregoing items and note the disciplinary consequences to students for failing to abide by such rules.

Student Use of Social Media - Students are prohibited from accessing social media platforms on electronic devices owned by the Board, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for an educational purpose.

Adoption of Additional Rules and Regulations — The Superintendent is authorized to develop for Board approval additional or more specific rules and regulations regarding access to and use of its technology resources and to require adherence to such rules and regulations through such means as the “Acceptable Use Agreement,” the Code of Conduct, and application of appropriate disciplinary policies and procedures.

Those rules and regulations should incorporate the requirements of the federal *Child Internet Protection Act* and Alabama’s *Freeing our Classrooms of Unnecessary Screen for Safety Act* including, but not limited to:

1. Measures to block or filter internet access to pictures that are obscene, that constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors;

2. Restriction of access by minors to inappropriate and harmful material on the Internet;
3. Limiting Internet access by students to only age-appropriate subject matters and materials;
4. Providing specific procedures and other protections that prioritize the safety and security of students when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication;
5. Prevention of “hacking” and other forms of unauthorized use of or access to computer or Internet files, sites, databases, or equipment;
6. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors;
7. Educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response;
8. Prohibiting access by students to unlawfully obtained data or information, including “hacking,” and other unlawful online activity by students;
9. Prohibiting access to websites, web applications, or software that exposes students to the disclosure, use, or dissemination of their personal information; and
10. Prohibiting students from accessing social media platforms, unless expressly directed by a teacher for educational purposes.

SOURCE: Athens City Board of Education, Athens, AL
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