



Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
March 19, 2026	Action Item 7

Title
School Board Policy IFBG- Internet Acceptable Use

Requested Action
School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of School Board Policy IFBG- Internet Acceptable Use -- on First Reading

Summary Explanation and Background
The proposed modifications are to ensure compliance with the Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act, which requires the local board of education of each Georgia public school system to, by April 2026, adopt a social media policy that meets the law's requirements.

Financial Impact
N/A

Exhibits: (List) Enter URL below
Policy attached

Source of Additional Information	Open URL
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Internet Acceptable Use

The Cherokee County Board of Education recognizes that electronic media, such as the internet, offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers that should promote educational excellence in our schools. The intent of this Policy is to help ensure that all uses of the Cherokee County School District's (School District) internet connection are for support of education and research and are consistent with the goals and educational philosophy of the School District.

I. INTERNET PROTECTION

The School District will utilize a required technology protection measure as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). To the extent practicable, this technology protection measure will restrict access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors, as defined in CIPA. Subject to administrative approval, technology protection measures may be disabled or minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

It shall be the responsibility of all Cherokee County School District staff to attempt to supervise usage of the online computer network and access to the internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, and relevant state and federal laws. As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, Cherokee County School District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response, and the importance of parental involvement in their online activities. The District will also provide communication to parents about online resources and tools available to monitor and manage their child's internet usage.

As required by the Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act of 2024, the District, with the exceptions as noted below, will prohibit students from accessing social media platforms through the use of computer equipment, communications services, or internet access that is operated, owned, leased, and made available to students by the District. Students who violate this prohibition will be subject to disciplinary consequences as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Students will be permitted to access social media platforms, through the use of computer equipment, communications services, or internet access that is operated, owned, leased, and made available to students by the District, only: as directed by school personnel; for the exclusive purpose of accessing and utilizing age-appropriate educational resources; under the supervision of such school personnel; and during the course of a school related activity. Parents and legal guardians will be notified of such planned usage in advance and have the opportunity to opt their students out of such usage.

Employees must always maintain professional and appropriate communications with students whether in person or through digital platforms that aligns with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's Code of Ethics for Educators, School Board Policies, and district guidelines. Communication should support educational or district

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sponsored activities, athletics, and events. Written communication should be conducted through district-approved communications systems when possible. Private or personal communication with students is prohibited.

All of the School District's internet users are subject to the following rules and regulations:

II. STANDARDS FOR USAGE

1. **Acceptable Use** -- The purpose of the school network/internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States and the world by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of the network must be consistent with the educational objectives of the School District. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S., or state regulation or School District Policy is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities or product advertisement is not acceptable unless approved by the School District. Use for political lobbying is prohibited, however, users may communicate with elected officials to express an opinion on political issues. All users will follow Internet Safety Guidelines developed by the School District.
2. **Privileges** -- Each user who receives access to the internet must first participate in an internet safety/acceptable use Policy training session. The use of the internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a restriction of those privileges and may result in additional administrative disciplinary action. Also, the School District network administrator may close an account at any time as deemed necessary for the safety of the users and for the security and integrity of the School District's network/internet services.
3. **Security** -- Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Passwords provide a level of security and must not be shared. Unauthorized attempts to logon to a network/internet as a network administrator or other system user may result in cancellation/denial of user privileges. Any user(s) identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the network/internet services throughout the School District. If a security problem on the network/internet is suspected, users are required to notify the School District's Division of Technology and Information Services as soon as possible.
4. **Network/Internet Use Behavior Standards** -- All internet users are expected to abide by the following guidelines. These standards of behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.

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- i. Violation of O.C.G.A. § 16-9-93 as it pertains to computer theft, computer trespass, and computer invasion of privacy, computer forgery, and computer password disclosure
 - ii. Violation of O.C.G.A. § 16-11-37.1 as it pertains to dissemination of information through a computer or computer network of information, any picture, photograph, drawing, or verbal description designed to encourage, solicit or promote terroristic acts and/or threats
- b. Submitting, publishing or displaying profanity, vulgarities, defamatory language, intentionally inaccurate information, or inappropriate language is prohibited.
- c. Use of an identity other than the user's own is prohibited.
- d. Publishing personal information about students such as full name, address, phone number or social security number is prohibited.
- e. Electronic mail (e-mail) instant messages and other forms of messaging using District resources are not private. Inappropriate or illegal messages will be reported to the proper authorities.
- f. A user will not intentionally and without authority spread computer viruses, vandalize the data, infiltrate systems, damage hardware or software, or in any way disrupt the use of the School District network. A student enrolled in a cybersecurity pathway course will not be in violation of this Policy when acting at the direction of the cybersecurity teacher(s). The teacher(s) of a cybersecurity pathway course will not be in violation of this Policy when acting within the guidelines for cybersecurity pathway courses established by the Superintendent.
- g. Engaging in non-educational games and monopolizing resource time and materials is prohibited.
- h. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be subject to copyright law. The user is responsible for checking for copyrighted or licensing agreements. Data received through the internet is subject to the same rules of documentation as traditional information. Credit is to be given for all material used in research.
- i. Copying or downloading software illegally from network sources, disks, or other electronic material to another computer is prohibited. Software installation must be approved by the School District's Division of Technology and Information Services.
- j. Use of the internet to access inappropriate matter is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the materials that are: obscene, sexually explicit, threatening, abusive, harassing, illegally damaging to another person's reputation and/or

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demeaning to genders, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion and national origins, contrary to the School District's Policy on harassment.

- k. An authorized user will be ultimately responsible for all activity under their account and password. Accounts will be used only by the authorized user for the purposes specified.
- l. Employee generated files are the property of the School District and may be accessed by appropriate authorized system personnel.
- m. Local, state or federal officials may obtain access to electronic communications in conjunction with investigations or other purposes. In addition, messages sent over the electronic network may be subject to disclosure under the Open Records Act.
- n. It will be the responsibility of all members of the School District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the computer, network device and access to the internet in accordance with this Policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

5. Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**a. Purpose and Scope**

- This section outlines the responsible use of AI technologies within the Cherokee County School District (CCSD) to ensure ethical, safe, and effective integration into educational practices and student learning.

b. Educational Value

- AI technologies may be used in accordance with the CCSD AI Guidelines for staff and students.
- The effectiveness of AI tools should be periodically evaluated to ensure they meet educational goals and standards.

c. Ethical Guidelines

- AI technologies should be used in ways that respect the privacy, rights, and dignity of all students, staff, and stakeholders.
- AI applications must comply with all relevant laws and regulations, including data protection and privacy laws.
- The use of AI must support, not undermine, the principles of academic honesty as outlined in Section 13(D) of the CCSD Student Code of Conduct. Students should be guided to use AI responsibly and ethically, ensuring their work reflects their own understanding and effort.
- The use of AI by employees must support, not undermine, the personal effort, critical thinking, and any work responsibility. If AI is used, it should be in a way that is responsible and ethical, ensuring that their work reflects their own thinking, understanding, and effort.

d. Data Privacy and Security

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- AI systems must adhere to strict data privacy and security protocols to protect sensitive information.
 - Only necessary data should be collected, and it should be anonymized wherever possible to protect individual identities.
- e. **Continuous Improvement**
- The Guidelines supporting this policy should be reviewed periodically and updated as needed to reflect technological advancements and emerging best practices.
 - Feedback from stakeholders should be actively sought and incorporated into policy revisions.
6. **Disclaimer** -- The School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The School District will not be responsible for any damages a user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, service interruptions and exposure to offensive or threatening material. Use of any information obtained via the network/internet is at each user's own risk. The School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of any information obtained through its services.

ADOPTED: August 21, 2008

REVISED: March/April 2026

Cherokee County Board of Education