

FAMILY TECHNOLOGY GUIDE

Technology is an important tool for teaching and learning in Knox County Schools. Digital tools help students collaborate, access instructional resources, explore future careers, and develop the skills they will need beyond graduation.

Just as importantly, we are committed to helping students use technology safely, responsibly, and in age-appropriate ways.

Supporting students in today's digital world requires more than a single program or policy. Knox County Schools combines technology safeguards, classroom instruction, district policies, and partnerships with families to help students develop healthy technology habits while creating a safe and supportive digital learning environment.

KCS APPROACH TO DIGITAL SAFETY

Families

PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES

Families play an essential role in helping students build healthy technology habits.

You can support your child by:

- Talking regularly about responsible online behavior.
- Encouraging balanced technology use.
- Discussing appropriate social media use.
- Helping your child recognize online scams and misinformation.
- Keeping communication open if something online makes them uncomfortable.
- Reviewing your family's expectations for device and screen time.

Working together helps students develop lifelong digital citizenship skills.

HOW WE KEEP FAMILIES INFORMED

Knox County Schools communicates important technology and safety information with families throughout the school year through ParentSquare.

Families may receive updates about:

- Digital safety resources.
- Technology expectations.
- New instructional tools.
- Policy updates.
- Internet safety information.

HELPING YOUR CHILD BUILD HEALTHY DIGITAL HABITS

Knox County Schools offers Qustodio, a free service that gives families tools to supervise school-issued Chromebooks outside of school hours.

With Qustodio, families can:

- Manage screen time
- Set web filters
- Monitor browsing activity
- Pause internet access, and
- Receive email summaries of their child's online activity.

These tools can help families reinforce healthy digital habits, encourage balanced technology use, and support safe, responsible online behavior at home.

SECURE STUDENT ACCESS

Students access many district-approved instructional applications through ClassLink, Knox County Schools' secure single sign-on platform.

Using a single login helps:

- Simplify student access to instructional resources.
- Reduce password-related issues.
- Improve account security.
- Ensure students use district-approved digital learning tools.

APP CATALOG

The App Catalog on ClassLink is a searchable directory of district-approved digital tools and applications. With over 1,190 apps listed, students and families can quickly find what they need in one place, with confidence that everything has already been reviewed for safety, privacy, and instructional quality.

District

SAFETY ALERTS FOR STUDENT WELL-BEING

Knox County Schools uses safety monitoring tools to help identify potential concerns and support students while they use district-issued devices.

These tools may identify indicators related to:

- Self-harm or suicide.
- Bullying or harassment.
- Threats of violence.
- Other situations that may require school staff to provide support.

When appropriate, designated school personnel review alerts and follow established district procedures to determine whether additional support or intervention is needed.

Monitoring is intended to help protect students and should not be viewed as replacing parent or guardian supervision outside of school. These tools are not used to monitor personal devices that are not managed by Knox County Schools.

SAFE AND APPROPRIATE INTERNET ACCESS

Knox County Schools uses internet filtering and security tools to help ensure students access educational content while using district devices and networks.

These protections help:

- Block inappropriate or harmful websites.
- Limit access to content that is not appropriate for a student's age.
- Reduce online distractions during the school day.
- Protect students from malicious websites and online threats.

Internet filtering is applied whenever students use district devices on the KCS network and, in many cases, when district devices are used off campus. Social media platforms are not accessible on Knox County Schools devices or networks during the school day.

QUESTIONS?

Additional information about student technology use, district policies, frequently asked questions, and online safety resources is available on the KCS website at knoxschools.org/technology.

If you have questions, please contact your child's school or the Knox County Schools Technology Department.

TEACHING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Technology safety isn't just about blocking harmful content—it is also about teaching students how to make responsible choices online.

Students receive age-appropriate instruction in topics such as:

- Online privacy and protecting personal information.
- Respectful online communication.
- Cyberbullying prevention and response.
- Evaluating online information and misinformation.
- Responsible use of artificial intelligence.
- Creating healthy technology habits.
- Digital footprints and online reputation.
- Students in grades 6-12 receive social media and internet safety instruction as required by Tennessee law.

Parents or guardians may request that their student be excused from part or all of this instruction as permitted by state law. Students who are excused will receive alternative instructional activities.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN THE CLASSROOM

Knox County Schools permits the use of district-approved artificial intelligence tools when they support curriculum and instructional goals in middle and high school and are used in accordance with Board policy. AI is not allowed in elementary school.

When AI tools are used in the classroom, students receive instruction on the appropriate and responsible use of AI. Teachers establish expectations for when AI may be used and how students should appropriately acknowledge or disclose its use.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
STUDENT TECHNOLOGY USE**

[KNOXSCHOOLS.ORG/TECHNOLOGY](https://knoxschools.org/technology)