

## WASHINGTON NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

CABOT SCHOOL – TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL

### POLICY G11

### RESPONSIBLE COMPUTER, NETWORK & INTERNET USE

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The Washington Northeast Supervisory Union and Cabot and Twinfield Union School Districts recognize that information technology (IT) is integral to learning and educating today's children for success in the global community and fully supports the access of these electronic resources by students and staff. The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Create an environment that fosters the use of information technology in a manner that supports and enriches the curriculum, provides opportunities for collaboration, and enhances staff professional development.
2. Ensure the district takes appropriate measures to maintain the safety of everyone that accesses the district's information technology devices, network and web resources.
3. Comply with the requirements of applicable federal and state laws that regulate the provision of access to the internet and other electronic resources by school districts.

#### **Policy**

It is the policy of the Washington Northeast Supervisory Union and Cabot and Twinfield Union School Districts to provide students and staff access to a multitude of information technology (IT) resources including the Internet. These resources provide opportunities to enhance learning and improve communication within our community and with the global community beyond. However, with the privilege of access comes the responsibility of students, teachers, staff and the public to exercise responsible use of these resources. The use by students, staff or others of district IT resources is a privilege, not a right.

The same rules and expectations govern student use of IT resources as apply to other student conduct and communications, including but not limited to the district's harassment and bullying policies.

The district's computer and network resources are the property of the district. Users shall have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, receive or display on or over the district's computers or network resources, including personal files and electronic communications.

The superintendent is responsible for establishing procedures governing use of IT resources consistent with the provisions of this policy. These procedures must include:

1. An annual process for educating students about responsible digital citizenship. As defined in this policy, a responsible digital citizen is one who:
  - **Respects One's Self.** Users will maintain appropriate standards of language and behavior when sharing information and images on social networking websites and elsewhere online. Users refrain from distributing personally identifiable information<sup>[2]</sup> about themselves and others.
  - **Respects Others.** Users refrain from using technologies to bully, tease or harass other people. Users will report incidents of cyber bullying and harassment in accordance with the district's policies on bullying and harassment. Users will also refrain from using another person's system account or password or from presenting themselves as another person.
  - **Protects One's Self and Others.** Users protect themselves and others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials and communications. They are responsible at all times for the proper use of their account by not sharing their system account password.
  - **Respects Intellectual Property.** Users suitably cite any and all use of websites, books, media, etc.
  - **Protects Intellectual Property.** Users request to use the software and media others produce.
2. Provisions necessary to ensure that Internet service providers and other contractors comply with applicable restrictions on the collection and disclosure of student data and any other confidential information stored in district electronic resources.
3. Technology protection measures that provide for the monitoring and filtering of online activities by all users of district IT, including measures that protect against access to content that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.<sup>[3]</sup>
4. Methods to address the following:<sup>[4]</sup>
  - Control of access by minors to sites on the Internet that include inappropriate content, such as content that is:
    - ✓ Lewd, vulgar, or profane
    - ✓ Threatening
    - ✓ Harassing or discriminatory
    - ✓ Bullying
    - ✓ Terroristic
    - ✓ Obscene or pornographic

- The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, social media sites, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
  - Prevention of unauthorized online access by minors, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities.
  - Unauthorized disclosure, use, dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
  - Restriction of minors’ access to materials harmful to them.
5. A process whereby authorized persons may temporarily disable the district’s Internet filtering measures during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Policy Application**

This policy applies to anyone who accesses the district’s network, collaboration and communication tools, and/or student information systems either on-site or via a remote location, and anyone who uses the district’s IT devices either on or off-site.

**Limitation/Disclaimer of Liability**

The District is not liable for unacceptable use or violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, user mistakes or negligence, and costs incurred by users. The District is not responsible for ensuring the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any information found on the District’s electronic resources network including the Internet. The District is not responsible for any damage experienced, including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through or stored on the electronic resources system including the Internet, or for financial obligations arising through their unauthorized use.

**Enforcement**

The district reserves the right to revoke access privileges and/or administer appropriate disciplinary action for misuse of its IT resources. In the event there is an allegation that a user has violated this policy, a student will be provided with notice and opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the student disciplinary policy. Allegations of staff member violations of this policy will be processed in accord with contractual agreements and legal requirements.

Legal

Reference(s):

- 17 U.S.C. §§101-120 (Federal Copyright Act of 1976 as amended)
- 20 U.S.C. § 6777 *et seq.* (*Enhancing*

*Education Through Technology Act)*  
*18 U.S.C. §2251 (Federal Child Pornography Law—Sexual Exploitation and Other Abuse of Children)*  
*47 U.S.C. §254 (Children’s Internet Protection Act)*  
*47 CFR §54.520 (CIPA Certifications)*  
*13 V.S.A. §§2802 et seq. (Obscenity, minors)*  
*13 V.S.A. § 1027 (Disturbing Peace by Use of...Electronic Means)*  
*13 V.S.A. §2605(Voyeurism)*

Cross  
Reference:

*Student Conduct and Discipline (F1)*  
*Copyrights (G2)*  
*Selection of Instructional Materials (G5)*  
*Complaints About Instructional Materials (G6)*

[1] The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) makes schools ineligible to receive funding for the purchase of computers used to access the internet, or to pay costs associated with accessing the internet, through the technology grants program “...unless the school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for administration of (the) school both...has in place a policy of Internet safety for minors that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are...obscene; child pornography; or harmful to minors; and is enforcing the operation of such computers by minors; and has in place a policy of Internet safety that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are...obscene or child pornography and is enforcing...such measure during use of any such computers...” 20 U.S.C. § 6777; 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(5)(A) & (B). Prior to adoption, the school must “provide reasonable public notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposed Internet safety policy.” 47 U.S.C. § 254(l)(1)(B).

[2] For the purposes of this policy, “personally identifiable information” shall not include any information listed as “directory information” in the school district’s annual FERPA notice.

[3] Required by Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), 47 U.S.C. § 254(1); 47 C.F.R. § 54.520(c)(ii)

[4] Required by Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), 47 U.S.C. § 254(1); 47 C.F.R. § 54.520(c)(ii)

[5] Required by 20 U.S.C. § 6777(c)