

**SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**STUDENT ACCEPTABLE TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY and AGREEMENT**

The Sumter County Schools provides computers and network capabilities to students for the purpose of enhancing instruction through technological resources. Students may be granted access to the district's electronic communication system, which may include access to the Internet. The Internet is a worldwide network that provides access to thousands of libraries, databases, and other unique informational resources. A student's activities while using this system must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Sumter County Schools. Sumter County Schools utilize filtering services for Internet accessed material. Filtering limits the accessibility to inappropriate sites but cannot guarantee such sites will not be accessible, nor does it provide any guarantee to the authenticity or accuracy of any information accessed. Ultimately, parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for individual access.

Students are responsible for good behavior when using school technologies just as they are in a classroom or school hallway. All users are expected to use the computers and computer networks in a responsible, ethical and polite manner.

***The use of the technology resources is a privilege, not a right.*** Students violating any of the provisions of this agreement, or the overall Acceptable Use Policy, may be subject to loss of user privileges and other disciplinary options, including criminal prosecution, where applicable.

***Files stored on the district's technology resources and online activities are not private.*** Network storage areas will be treated like school lockers. School authorities have the right to review and monitor all information stored or transmitted on the network.

***Teachers may use Internet resources in class.*** Teachers may use Internet resources as part of their classroom instruction. This document relates to individually controlled access and should not be interpreted as excusing the student from such class presentations where the teacher directs and controls the access or the use of managed online services under contract to the Sumter District Schools.

***The Technology Resources Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy governs all use of these technological resources.*** The Technology Resources Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy, School Board Rule 7540.03, is printed on the back of this form.

**Responsible Use Includes:**

- ***Staying on Task*** -Students will use such technology resources to meet the requirements and/or expectations of their teachers. Any activity outside this scope, such as accessing resources not related to the lesson or when other activities have been assigned, is unacceptable.
- ***Being Polite and Not Offending Others*** -The use or display of language, pictures or other forms of expression that would be considered obscene, offensive, harassing, insulting, abusive or harmful to others is not allowed.
- ***Protecting Your Account and Not Sharing Passwords*** - Students may not use the accounts of other people. You are always to login under your own account or through special class account as provided by your teacher or other school official.
- ***Never Leaving a Computer Logged on Unattended***- Students must always close their account before leaving. Leaving a computer logged in is very similar to sharing your account because others could possibly use it.
- ***Not Using Personal Internet Accounts While at School*** – While students are at school they are not to use any personal network accounts, including email, social networking, etc. unless specifically approved and for school business.
- ***Never Giving Out Personal Information*** – Students are not to give out personal information about themselves or others while using the technological resources.
- ***Not Wasting Limited Resources*** – Students should always be cautious not to monopolize the use of computers or use excessive materials such as printer paper or Internet bandwidth.
- ***Respecting Copyright Laws and Not to Plagiarize*** - It is important that students realize and respect the ownership of the works they use. Students must give credit to authors and not take credit for work they did not create.
- ***Caring for Computer Files, Programs and Equipment***- It is everybody's responsibility to help keep the technology working smoothly. It is important to take care of the computer and all of its parts. It is also important to turn off the computers properly. Students are not to erase or change any computer files other than their own.
- ***Not Using the School's Computers or Networks for Personal Business***- Students may not use the school's computers or network for financial gain or other personal business, including shopping.

Technology has fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. As a result, educators are continually adapting their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning to incorporate the vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet. The School Board provides technology resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100) to support the educational and professional needs of its students and staff. With respect to students, District technology resources afford them the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. The Board provides students with access to the Internet for limited educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services/apps to enhance the instruction delivered to its students. The District's computer network and Internet system do not serve as a public access service or a public forum and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its limited educational purpose.

The Board regulates the use of District technology resources by principles consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal laws, the District's educational mission and articulated expectations of student conduct as delineated in the Code of Student Conduct. This policy and its related administrative procedures and the Code of Student Conduct govern students' use of District technology resources and students' personal communication devices when they are connected to the District computer network, Internet connection, and/or online educational services/apps or when used while the student is on Board-owned property or at a Board-sponsored activity (see Policy 5136).

Users are required to refrain from actions that are illegal (such as libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, and the like) or unkind (such as personal attacks, invasion of privacy, injurious comment, and the like). Because its technology resources are not unlimited, the Board has also instituted restrictions aimed at preserving these resources, such as placing limits on the use of bandwidth, storage space, and printers.

Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using District technology resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity when using the District's computer network and/or Internet connection).

First, the Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its technology resources, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study, and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted procedures and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that may not have been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures that protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using District technology resources if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the CIPA. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services/apps containing appropriate material if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether the material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

Parents are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services and/or resources on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable, or controversial. Parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet.

Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information;
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking", "harvesting", "digital piracy", "data mining", etc.), cyberbullying, and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online; and,
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding minors.

Staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above. Furthermore, staff members will monitor the online activities of students while at school.

Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions; or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

Principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying procedures. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of District technology resources. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media, including in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. All users of District technology resources (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying procedures.

Students will be assigned a school e-mail account that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to staff members, peers, and individuals and/or organizations outside the District, with whom they are communicating for school-related projects and assignments.

Students are responsible for good behavior when using District technology resources - i.e., behavior comparable to that expected of students when they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school-sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not approve any use of its technology resources that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying procedures.

Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of District technology resources that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying procedures.

The Board designates the Superintendent, Principals, and administrators as the people responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying procedures as they apply to students' use of District technology resources.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: 1000.21, 1001.43, F.S.

HISTORY: ADOPTED: 11/16/2004 REVISION DATE(S): 3/7/2006, 8/7/2007, 4/3/12, 9/4/2012, 2/4/2020 FORMERLY: 2.52, 8.62

**USER AGREEMENT AND PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM  
SUMTER DISTRICT SCHOOLS**

**STUDENT AGREEMENT:**

I have read the **Sumter County Schools Student Acceptable Technology Use Policy and Agreement** and I understand and agree to abide by it. I have read what responsible use is as well as examples of what is unacceptable. I agree to refrain from any unacceptable uses of the system and will report any violations to a teacher or other school official. I also understand that if I fail to use the technological resources responsibly, it may result in cancellation of this privilege and/or disciplinary action.

I understand that by checking this box and typing my name below constitutes by legal signature.

Student Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT or GUARDIAN:**

As the parent or legal guardian of the student signing above, I have read and understand the **Sumter County Schools Student Acceptable Technology Use Policy and Agreement** and discussed it with the student. I understand that even though the school employs filtering technology, it may not be able to restrict access to all inappropriate and controversial materials on the Internet, and will not hold the Sumter County Schools responsible for materials my son or daughter may acquire as a result of the use of the Internet from school facilities. I hereby release the district and its personnel from any and all claims and damages arising out of my student's use of the district's system.

I understand that by checking the box and typing my name below it constitutes my legal signature.

Name of Parent/Guardian (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_