

## **TECHNOLOGY/INTERNET USE AND ETHICS CODE**

The purpose of technology and the Internet in Butler County Schools is to support research and education by providing access to unique resources and an opportunity for collaborative work. Use of technology or the Internet, including e-mail, must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives and within the guidelines of the approved curriculum of the Board of Education.

It is the policy of the Butler County Board of Education to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub.L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

### **Definitions**

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

### **Access to Inappropriate Material**

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **Inappropriate Technology Usage**

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Butler County Board of Education online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. All use of computers, Internet, and e-mail programs are subject to monitoring by electronic means.

Any device (regardless of ownership) suspected to be used inappropriately on school grounds is subject to immediate inspection in order to determine the contents and recent utilization of the device. The devices subject to inspection include, but are not limited to, laptops, hand helds, cell phones, gaming devices, calculators, or any other device that can be used to communicate electronically.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking', and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

The following local regulations will also apply: (a) All use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the purpose of the Butler County School System.

(b) It is not permitted to create, send, or forward electronic chain letters.

- (c) Use of the Internet which results in any copyright violation is prohibited.
- (d) Use of the Internet to access or transmit materials likely to be considered obscene or pornographic is prohibited.
- (e) Hate mail, harassment, cyber bullying, discriminatory remarks, spam, and other antisocial communications using local area networks, wide area networks, or the Internet is prohibited.
- (f) Personal information such as name, address, or telephone number should not be revealed on the Internet.
- (g) Use of the Internet for product advertisement, political lobbying, commercial, for profit, buy/sell/trade/order goods, or services, or illegal activity is prohibited. Fraudulent copying, communicating, or modifying of materials in violation of law is prohibited and will be referred to appropriate authorities.
- (h) Malicious use of technology or the Internet to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer system and or damage the software components of a computer or system is prohibited.
- (i) Installing, downloading or uploading of unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electronic media (including music and movies) is prohibited.
- (j) Technology or the Internet shall not be used to disrupt the work of others.
- (k) The hardware, software, or programs of the Butler County Board of Education shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
- (l) Hacking is prohibited. Use of technology, local area networks, wide area networks, or the Internet to intentionally browse, see information about, obtain copies of, or modify files, passwords, or data belonging to other users is prohibited.
- (m) All encountered or observed problems in system or network security should be reported to an administrator in your building.

### **Supervision and Monitoring**

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Butler County Board of Education staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet protection Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Technology Director or designated representatives. Any person found to be in violation of this policy, applicable state and federal laws (including copyright laws), posted classroom rules, or other relevant Board of Education policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures as outlined in (a) for a Student, the Student Code of Conduct or (b) for an Employee, the Butler County Policy and Procedure Manuals. Violators will also be subject to immediate revocation of Internet and/or computer privileges.

Pursuant to the State of Alabama law, any unauthorized access or attempted unauthorized access may be subject to criminal prosecution.

## **Education**

Each year, School Administrators will ensure that students are being educated about proper online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, cyberbullying awareness, and response.

## **Adoption**

The Butler County Board of Education adopted this Internet Safety Policy at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on June 21, 2012. CIPA definitions of terms:

**TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE:** The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. **OBSCENE**, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. **CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. **HARMFUL TO MINORS**. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
  - a. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
  - b. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
  - c. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
4. **SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT**. The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.