Foster-Glocester Regional Schools
Computer, Technology, and Internet Responsible Use Policy
Collaborative, Relevant, and Personalized Learning
Supported by 1:1 Technology

Philosophy and Intent

The Ponaganset i21 Initiative, a 1:1 technology program, is designed to support the mission of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District by providing each graduate the opportunity to be well prepared for post-secondary education, careers, and citizenship within a global knowledge-based society. This policy is intended to provide our students a competitive edge by establishing a collaborative, personalized, and relevant educational system that:

1) Graduates students proficient in 21st Century Skills and work habits needed for success in a knowledge-based global society;
2) Delivers an innovative and integrated learning experiences, organized around students' college and career interests, that prepares our students for the pressing challenges of a global digital society;
3) Provides curricular experiences that bring real world applications to learning that occurs in and out of school; and
4) Prepares students for careers in high demand and/or high growth areas in the local and global labor markets by offering rigorous courses and programs.

Our Vision

Collaborative, relevant, and personalized learning experiences develop students' intellectual core, 21st Century Skills, work habits, and expand their content knowledge in technology rich learning environments. Students purposefully choose college and career pathways that may lead to post-secondary credit and/or industry certification. Students use technology innovatively and collaboratively to produce relevant original work with thoroughness and accuracy. Real world applications, aligned to student interests, are incorporated into integrated curricular experiences that thoughtfully use time, flexible groups, technology, physical and virtual resources to engage students and advance learning in classroom, independent and other settings.

Responsible Use of Technology

The use of laptops, Chromebooks, and other technology is an integral part of the Ponaganset learning and teaching experience and is necessary to achieve the educational mission of the district. Student use of district provided technology and related equipment is a necessary to deliver rigorous curriculum and a high-quality personalized, relevant, and collaborative educational experience that prepares students for varying college and careers. Students and their families have a responsibility to use this technology wisely, appropriately, and in accordance with all laws, regulations, school committee policies, administrative directives, policies, and procedures.

Every user needs technology skills and knowledge to succeed as an effective and productive citizen; every provider needs access to technological tools to provide students with the best possible opportunity for success. The 21st century learning environment includes all types of resources and computing devices. Users and providers have access to technology which includes, but is not limited to,

local network resources, Internet service, desktop computers, laptops, eBooks, iPods, cell phones, or other digital devices, both personal and District provided. Use of technology supports the effective implementation of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District's curriculum and standards.

This policy applies regardless of whether such use occurs on or off school property, and it applies to all School District technological resources including, but not limited to, computer networks and connections; the resources, tools, and learning environments made available by or on the network; and all devices that connect to those networks. When issued a computing device by the District, users and providers may use it at school or at home. The District permits personal use so long as it occurs on personal time, does not interfere with School District activities and is not otherwise prohibited by established policies and procedures. Users and providers are responsible for their actions and activities involving District technology, networks, and internet services and for keeping their files, passwords, and accounts secure. Damage, malfunction, theft, or similar event to an issued and assigned device must be reported within twenty-four (24) hours of the event.

Student / Parent / Guardian Device Care and Liability
Students in grades 6-12, as part of a multi-year phase in, may be issued a personal device. As is the case with textbooks, band equipment, athletic equipment, and other school property a student/family shall be responsible for the replacement cost if a device is lost or stolen. The value of the device will be prorated based on its age and replacement value. Students, parents/guardians should carefully read, understand, and follow the *Expectations for the Care of Devices.*

Content Filtering
The district utilizes an Internet content filter that is in compliance with the federally mandated Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The District uses technology protection measures to block or filter, to the extent practicable, access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, and harmful to minors over the network. All Laptops/Chromebooks, regardless of physical location (in or out of school), will have Internet activity protected and monitored by the district. If a website is blocked in school, then it should be blocked out of school. If an educationally valuable site is blocked, students should contact their teachers or the media center staff to request that the site be unblocked. Instructional staff, even when they allow access for educational reasons to sites normally blocked or filtered, also provide reasonable monitoring of students' Internet use; however it is the responsibility of the student to monitor his/her own access and use sound judgment in matters related to potentially obscene, pornographic, and/or harmful materials. No internet content filtering software can prevent all unwanted content from being accessed either by accident or on purpose by the student. The most effective way of monitoring student use of technology in the home is to ensure that students only use the device under the direct supervision of their Parents/Guardians and students fulfill their responsibility to monitor their own computer, technology, and Internet use.

Educational software not initially provided by the District may be used by and with students only with the permission of the District.

Guidelines for Users and Providers:
A. Technology Use is a Privilege, Not a Right
Use of the District's technology, networks and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Users must also follow this policy when using allowable personal digital devices, including laptop computers, at school.

B. Responsible Use
Users are expected to use District technology for educational purposes.

Users are expected to comply with this policy and all specific directions from instructional staff when using technology outlined in this policy.

Users are responsible for their actions and activities involving District technology, networks and Internet services and for keeping their files, passwords and accounts secure.

Users should promptly inform their teacher or school administrator if they are aware of any issue that is contrary to this policy.

C. Prohibited Uses
While technology can be a valuable resource in an academic setting, it has the potential for misuse. Prohibited use will result in disciplinary action as defined by the appropriate Behavior Code.
1. Inappropriate Material - Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, forwarding, downloading, scanning or displaying materials that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing and/or illegal.
2. Illegal/Unacceptable Activities - Using the District's technology, networks and/or Internet services for any illegal activity or activity that violates other School Committee policies, procedures and/or school rules.
3. Violation of Copyrights - Copying or downloading copyrighted materials without the owner's permission or any other activity that violates other School Committee policies regarding copyrighted material.
4. Non-School-Related Uses - Using the District's technology, networks and Internet services for non-school-related purposes including, but not limited to, private financial gain, commercial, political, religious, advertising or solicitation purposes.
5. Misuse of Passwords/Unauthorized Access - Sharing passwords, using other users' passwords without permission and/or accessing other users' accounts.
6. Malicious Use/Vandalism - Any malicious use, disruption or harm to the District's technology, networks and Internet services including, but not limited to, modifying device configurations, hacking activities and creation/uploading of computer viruses. Vandalism includes damaging computer equipment, files, data or the network in any way.
7. Unauthorized Access of Electronic Communication Tools - Accessing resources such as email, chat, social networking sites, texting and telephone services without specific authorization from instructional staff.

D. Personalization of Issued and Assigned Devices
1. Users are allowed to personalize devices within the parameters of this policy. Personalization must not impede the instructional and educational use of the device.
2. Users are not allowed to make configuration changes that may interfere with maintenance, software installation, or software upgrades.

3. Personalization must conform to the Responsible Use of Computer, Internet, and Technology Policy and all other applicable policies of the District. No use of media prohibited by other policies is allowed.
4. The District assumes no liability or responsibility for personal electronic property saved to a device. This includes, but is not limited to, personal software, files, games, eBooks, and other media.
5. The District assumes no liability or responsibility for unauthorized charges may be users that may include, but are not limited to, credit card charges, long distance telephone charges, and electronic payment services.
6. In the event that device internal memory is insufficient for the download or use of required educational content, the provider will be required to remove personal files.

E. Communication of the Policy to Students
This policy or a link to it shall be provided to all students and parents/guardians on an annual basis. All students shall be provided with instruction regarding this policy.

Additional Guidelines for Staff, Teachers, and Administrators:
A. Primary Intent

District technology is made available to providers to allow for the enhancement, enrichment, and expansion of educational opportunities for students. Its primary use is for educational purposes. District Technology may be used for personal purposes not prohibited below provided there is no marginal cost to the district.

B. Use of Social Media
The District respects the right of educators to use social networking sites. However, educators should understand that they are held to a higher standard than the general public with regard to standards of conduct and ethics. Reference should be made to other Foster-Glocester policies, including the Code of Conduct Policy.

C. Prohibited Uses
1. Inappropriate Material: Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, forwarding, downloading, scanning or displaying materials that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing and/or illegal.
2. Illegal Activities: Using the District's technology, networks and/or Internet services for illegal activity or activity that violates other School Committee policies, procedures, and/or school rules.
3. Violation of Copyrights: Copying or downloading copyrighted materials without the owner's permission or any other activity that violates other School Committee policies regarding copyrighted material. Under no circumstance may software purchased by the District be copied or distributed.
4. Using the District's technology, networks and Internet services for purposes including, but not limited to, private financial gain, commercial, political, religious, advertising, or solicitation purposes is prohibited.
5. Providers are not allowed to make configuration changes that may interfere with maintenance, software installation, or software upgrades.

No Expectation of Privacy
Administrators, teachers, staff, and students have no expectation of privacy with respect to any usage of all technology, software, servers, Internet, services owned or leased by the district regardless of whether that use is for district related or personal purposes, other than as specifically provided by law.

The District may, without prior notice or consent, log, supervise, access, view, monitor, copy, store, delete, and record use of technology at any time, including email and stored files, and disclose them to parents, guardians, teachers, administrators or law enforcement authorities as it deems necessary for any reason related to the operation of the District. By using a computer and/or other district owned or leased technology, all users agree to such access, monitoring, recording, and distribution of their use in accordance with governing laws, regulations, and policies.

Appropriate Uses and Digital Citizenship for Students

Laptops/Chromebooks and other school owned or leased technology should be used for educational purposes and all users are to adhere to the FGRSD Digital Citizenship Agreement at all times.

Digital Citizenship Agreement for Students

Students, teachers, administrators, and staff shall practice good Digital Citizenship as outlined in the Digital Citizenship Agreement. FGRSD believes that the best way to prepare our students for their digital future is to have them using online tools appropriately in school. We have monitoring software and filters, but these tools cannot guarantee that students will not encounter potentially harmful situations (harassment, inappropriate content, etc.) Our goal is to use potential actions in conflict with Digital Citizenship and district policy as teachable moments to help protect our students against future harmful experiences online, and/or for accountability purposes as appropriate.

Upon the effective date of this policy, School Committee policy # 6161.8 Acceptable Use Policy is repealed.

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Adapted from Chariho and Coventry Public Schools