

## **Electronic Communications System**

### **Definitions**

1. "Technology protection measure," as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:
  - a. Obscene, as that term is defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code;
  - b. Child pornography, as that term is defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code; or c. Harmful to minors.
2. "Harmful to minors," as defined by CIPA, 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 to minors.
3. "Sexual act; sexual contact," as defined by CIPA, have the meanings given such terms in Section 2246 of Title 18, United States Code.
4. "Minor," as defined by CIPA, means an individual who has not attained the age of 17. For the purposes of Board policy and this administrative regulation, minor will include all students enrolled in district schools.
5. "Inappropriate matter," as defined by the district, means material that is inconsistent with general public education purposes, the district's mission and goals.
6. "District proprietary information" is defined as any information created, produced or collected by district staff for the business or education purposes of the district including but not limited to student information, staff information, parent or patron information, curriculum, forms and like items used to conduct the district's business.
7. "District software" is defined as any commercial or staff developed software acquired using district resources.

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<sup>1</sup>As inappropriate matter is not defined in the CIPA or regulations, districts should define the scope of what it will regard as inappropriate matter. The language provided in #5. is intended as a guide only.

## **General District Responsibilities**

The district will:

1. Designate staff as necessary to ensure coordination and maintenance of the district's electronic communications system which includes all district computers, e-mail and Internet access;
2. Provide staff training in the appropriate use of the district's system including copies of district policy and administrative regulations. Staff will provide similar training to authorized system users;
3. Provide a system for authorizing staff use of personal electronic devices to download or access district proprietary information, that insures the protections of said information and insures its removal from the device when its use is no longer authorized;
4. Provide a system for obtaining prior written agreement from staff for the recovery of district proprietary information downloaded to staff personal electronic devices as necessary to accomplish district purposes, obligations or duties, and when the use on the personal electronic device is no longer authorized, to insure verification that information downloaded has been properly removed from the personal electronic device;
5. Cooperate fully with local, state or federal officials in any investigation relating to misuse of the district's system;
6. Use only properly licensed software, audio or video media purchased by the district or approved for use by the district. The district will comply with the requirements of law regarding the use, reproduction and distribution of copyrighted works and with applicable provisions of use or license agreements;
7. Install and use desktop and/or server virus detection and removal software;
8. Provide technology protection measures that protect against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or with respect to the use of computers by minors, harmful to minors. A supervisor or other individual authorized by the principal may disable the technology protection measures to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, as deemed appropriate;
9. Prohibit access by minors, as defined by CIPA and this regulation, to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web;
10. Provide staff supervision to monitor the online activities of students to prevent unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities online, and ensure the safety and security of minors when authorized to use e-mail, social media, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communication;
11. Provide student education about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response, and how to interact with other individuals on social networking and social media websites and in chat rooms;
12. Determine which users and sites accessible as part of the district's system are most applicable to the curricular needs of the district and may restrict user access, accordingly;

13. Determine which users will be provided access to the district's e-mail system;
14. Notify appropriate system users that:
  - a. The district retains ownership and control of its computers, hardware, software and data at all times. All communications and stored information transmitted, received or contained in the district's information system are the district's property and are to be used for authorized purposes only. Use of district equipment or software for unauthorized purposes is strictly prohibited. To maintain system integrity, monitor network etiquette and ensure that those authorized to use the district's system are in compliance with Board policy, administrative regulations and law, the school administrators may routinely review user files and communications;
  - b. Files and other information, including e-mail, sent or received, generated or stored on district servers are not private and may be subject to monitoring. By using the district's system, individuals consent to have that use monitored by authorized district personnel. The district reserves the right to access and disclose, as appropriate, all information and data contained on district computers and district-owned e-mail system;
  - c. Information and data entered or stored on the district's computers and e-mail system may become discoverable evidence if a public records request is made or a lawsuit is filed against the district. "Deleted" or "purged" data from district computers or e-mail system may be retrieved for later public records disclosure or disciplinary purposes, as deemed necessary by the district;
  - d. The district may set quotas on any aspect of electronic system usage.
  - e. Passwords used on the district's system are the property of the district.
  - f. When using password protected systems, employees must work under their own password.
  - g. Inappropriate or prohibited use as outlined below.
15. Ensure all student users and their parent/guardian complete and sign an agreement to abide by the district's electronic communications policy and administrative regulations. All such agreements will be maintained on file in the school office;
16. Notify users of known copyright infringing activities and deny access to or remove the material.

## **User Responsibilities**

1. The conduct of computer users who access the Internet or send e-mails containing the district's domain address (@piecharters.org) may be perceived as reflecting on the character and professionalism of the district. When engaging in such conduct, whether for personal or official purposes, employees are expected to do so in a responsible and professional manner. All employees are strongly advised to use only district systems for electronic communications with students.
2. Reasonable care is to be taken to avoid damage to district systems.
3. All users are responsible for exercising appropriate care to protect the district's computer systems against the introduction of viruses. When using the district's Internet access or electronic communications, equipment and capability, individuals must:
  - a. Use the Internet or electronic communication systems only in accordance with district, building, and department policy and /or regulations and/or law.
  - b. maintain the conditions of security (including safeguarding of passwords) under which they are granted access to such systems;
  - c. check with the appropriate district technical staff prior to downloading or accessing a file or document if the source of the file or other circumstances raises doubts about its safety.

## **System Access**

1. Access to the district's system is authorized to:

Board members, district employees, students in grades, with parent approval and when under the direct supervision of staff, and district volunteers, district contractors or other members of the public as authorized by the system coordinator or district administrators consistent with the district's policy governing use of district equipment and materials.
2. Personal use means use that is not job-related. In general, incidental and occasional personal use of the district's Internet access or electronic communication systems is permitted; however, personal use is prohibited if it:
  - a. Interferes with the user's productivity or work performance, or with any other employee's productivity or work performance;
  - b. Adversely affects the efficient operation of the computer system
  - c. Violates any provision of this policy, any supplemental policy adopted by the building or department, other policy regulation, law or guideline as set forth by local, State or Federal law.

## **System Use Charges**

The district assumes no responsibility or liability for any membership or phone charges including, but not limited to, long distance charges, per minute (unit) surcharges and/or equipment or line costs incurred by any personal usage of the district's system.

## **Information Content/Third Party Supplied Information**

1. Although the District complies with CIPA requirements, system users and parents of student system users are advised that use of the district's system may provide access to materials that may be considered objectionable and inconsistent with the district's mission and goals. Should this occur, the district would request notification to the system administrator.
2. Opinions, advice, services and all other information expressed by system users, information providers, service providers or other third-party individuals are those of the providers and not the district.
3. System users may, with supervising teacher or system coordinator approval, order services or merchandise from other individuals and agencies that may be accessed through the district's system. These individuals and agencies are not affiliated with the district. All matters concerning merchandise and services ordered including, but not limited to, purchase terms, payment terms, warranties, guarantees and delivery are solely between the seller and the system user. The district makes no warranties or representation whatsoever with regard to any goods or services provided by the seller, district staff and administration shall not be a party to any such transaction or be liable for any costs or damages arising out of, either directly or indirectly, the actions or inactions of sellers.
4. The district does not warrant that the functions or services performed by or that the information or software contained on the system will meet the system user's requirements or that the system will be uninterrupted or error-free or that defects will be corrected. The district's system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The district does not make any warranties, whether express or implied including, without limitation, those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any services provided by the system and any information or software contained therein.

## **General Use Prohibitions/Guidelines/Etiquette**

Operation of the district's system relies upon the proper conduct and appropriate use of system users. Students, staff and others granted system access are responsible for adhering to the following prohibitions and guidelines which require legal, ethical and efficient utilization of the district's system.

### **1. Prohibitions**

The following conduct is strictly prohibited:

- a. Attempts to use the district's system for:
  - (1) Unauthorized solicitation of funds;
  - (2) Distribution of chain letters;
  - (3) Unauthorized sale or purchase of merchandise and services;
  - (4) Collection of signatures;
  - (5) Membership drives;
  - (6) Transmission of any materials regarding political campaigns.
- b. Attempts to upload, download, use, reproduce or distribute information, data, software, or file share music, videos or other materials on the district's system in violation of copyright law or applicable provisions of use or license agreements;

- c. Attempts to degrade, disrupt or vandalize the district's equipment, software, materials or data or those of any other user of the district's system or any of the agencies or other networks connected to the district's system;
- d. Attempts to evade, change or exceed resource quotas or disk usage quotas;
- e. Attempts to send, intentionally access or download any text file or picture or engage in any communication that includes material which may be interpreted as:
  - (1) Harmful to minors;
  - (2) Obscene or child pornography as defined by law or indecent, vulgar, profane or lewd as determined by the district;
  - (3) A product or service not permitted to minors by law;
  - (4) Harassment, intimidation, menacing, threatening or constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses others;
  - (5) A likelihood that, either because of its content or the manner of distribution, it will cause a material or substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation of the school or school activity;
  - (6) Defamatory, libelous, reckless or maliciously false, potentially giving rise to civil liability, constituting or promoting discrimination, a criminal offense or otherwise violates any law, rule, regulation, Board policy and/or administrative regulation.
- f. Attempts to gain unauthorized access to any service via the district's system which has a cost involved or attempts to incur other types of costs without specific approval. The user accessing such services will be responsible for these costs;
- g. Attempts to post or publish personal student contact information unless authorized by the system coordinator or teacher and consistent with applicable Board policy pertaining to student directory information and personally identifiable information. Personal contact information includes photograph, age, home, school, work or e-mail addresses or phone numbers or other unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding students;
- h. Attempts to arrange student meetings with anyone on the district's system, unless authorized by the system coordinator or teacher and with prior parent approval;
- i. Attempts to use the district's name in external communication forums such as chat rooms without prior district authorization;
- j. Attempts to use another individual's account name or password, failure to provide the district with individual passwords or to access restricted information, resources or networks to which the user has not been given access.

## **Complaints**

Complaints regarding use of the district's Electronic Communications System may be made to the teacher, principal, employee's supervisor or system coordinator. The district's established complaint procedure will be used for complaints concerning violations of the district's Electronic Communications System policy and/or administrative regulation. See Board policy KL - Public Complaints and accompanying administrative regulation.

## **Violations/Consequences**

1. Students
  - a. Students who violate general system user prohibitions shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion and/or revocation of district system access up to and including permanent loss of privileges.
  - b. Violations of law will be reported to law enforcement officials and may result in criminal or civil sanctions.
  - c. Disciplinary action may be appealed by parents, students and/or a representative in accordance with established district procedures.
2. Staff
  - a. Staff who violate general system user prohibitions shall be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal in accordance with Board policy, collective bargaining agreements and applicable provisions of law.
  - b. Violations of law will be reported to law enforcement officials and may result in criminal or civil sanctions.
  - c. Violations of applicable Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC), Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators will be reported to TSPC as provided by OAR 584-020-0041.
  - d. Violations of ORS 244.040 will be reported to OGEC.
3. Others
  - a. Other guest users who violate general system user prohibitions shall be subject to suspension of system access up to and including permanent revocation of privileges.
  - b. Violations of law will be reported to law enforcement officials or other agencies, as appropriate, and may result in criminal or civil sanctions.

## **Telephone/Membership/Other Charges**

1. The district assumes no responsibility or liability for any membership or phone charges including, but not limited to, long distance charges, per minute (unit) surcharges and/or equipment or line costs incurred by any home usage of the district's system.
2. Any disputes or problems regarding phone services for home users of the district's system are strictly between the system user and their local phone company and/or long distance service provider.

## **Information Content/Third Party Supplied Information**

1. System users and parents of student system users are advised that use of the district's system may provide access to materials that may be considered objectionable and inconsistent with the district's mission and goals. Parents should be aware of the existence of such materials and monitor their student's home usage of the district's system accordingly.
2. Opinions, advice, services and all other information expressed by system users, information providers, service providers or other third-party individuals are those of the providers and not the district.
3. System users may, with supervising teacher or system coordinator approval, order services or merchandise from other individuals and agencies that may be accessed through the district's system. These individuals and agencies are not affiliated with the district. All matters concerning merchandise and services ordered including, but not limited to, purchase terms, payment terms, warranties, guarantees and delivery are solely between the seller and the system user. The district makes no warranties or representation whatsoever with regard to any goods or services provided by the seller. District staff and administration shall not be a party to any such transaction or be liable for any costs or damages arising out of, either directly or indirectly, the actions or inactions of sellers.
4. The district does not warrant that the functions or services performed by or that the information or software contained on the system will meet the system user's requirements or that the system will be uninterrupted or error-free or that defects will be corrected. The district's system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The district does not make any warranties, whether express or implied including, without limitation, those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any services provided by the system and any information or software contained therein.