

# Rutherford County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in November</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Use of the Internet</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>4.406</b>	Issued Date: <b>02/09/17</b>
		Rescinds: <b>4.406</b>	Issued: <b>06/16/11</b>

1 The board supports the right of staff and students to have reasonable access to various information  
2 formats and believes that it is incumbent upon staff and students to use this privilege in an appropriate  
3 and responsible manner.

## 4 **Employees**

5 Before any employee is allowed use of the district's Internet or intranet access, the employee shall sign  
6 a written agreement, developed by the director/designee that sets out the terms and conditions of such  
7 use. Any employee who accesses the district's computer system for any purpose agrees to be bound by  
8 the terms of that agreement, even if no signed written agreement is on file.

9 The director of schools shall develop and implement procedures for appropriate Internet use which shall  
10 address the following:

- 11 1. Development of the Network and Internet Use Agreement.
- 12 2. General rules and ethics of Internet access.
- 13 3. Guidelines regarding appropriate instruction and oversight of student Internet use.
- 14 4. Prohibited and illegal activities, including but not limited to the following:<sup>1</sup>
  - 15 • Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
  - 16 • Using obscene language
  - 17 • Harassing, insulting, defaming, or attacking others
  - 18 • Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
  - 19 • Hacking or attempting unauthorized access to any computer
  - 20 • Violation of copyright laws
  - 21 • Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files
  - 22 • Intentional misuse of resources
  - 23 • Using another's password or other identifier (impersonation)
  - 24 • Use of the network for commercial purposes
  - 25 • Buying or selling on the Internet

## 26 **Students**

27 The director of schools shall develop and implement procedures for appropriate Internet use by students.  
28 Procedures shall address the following:

- 29 1. General rules and ethics of Internet use.
- 30 2. Prohibited or illegal activities, including, but not limited to:<sup>1</sup>
  - 31 • Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
  - 32 • Using obscene language

- 1 • Harassing, insulting, defaming, or attacking others
- 2 • Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- 3 • Hacking or attempting unauthorized access
- 4 • Violation of copyright laws
- 5 • Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files
- 6 • Intentional misuse of resources
- 7 • Using another's password or other identifier (impersonation)
- 8 • Use of the network for commercial purposes
- 9 • Buying or selling on the Internet

## 10 **INTERNET SAFETY MEASURES<sup>3</sup>**

11 Internet safety measures shall be implemented that effectively address the following on district supported  
12 devices:

- 13 • Controlling access by students to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide  
14 Web
- 15 • Safety and security of students when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other  
16 forms of direct electronic communications
- 17 • Preventing unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by  
18 students on-line
- 19 • Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding  
20 students
- 21 • Restricting students' access to materials harmful to them

22 The director of schools/designee shall establish a process to ensure the district's education technology is  
23 not used for purposes prohibited by law or for accessing sexually explicit materials. The process shall  
24 include, but not be limited to:

- 25 • Utilizing technology that blocks or filters Internet access (for both students and adults) to  
26 material that is obscene, child pornography or harmful to students
- 27 • Maintaining and securing a usage log
- 28 • Monitoring on-line activities of students

29 The board shall provide reasonable public notice of, its Internet safety measures.

30 A written parental consent shall be required prior to the student being granted access to electronic media  
31 involving district technological resources. The required permission/agreement form, which shall specify  
32 acceptable uses, rules of on-line behavior, access privileges and penalties for policy/ procedural  
33 violations, must be signed by the parent/legal guardian of minor students (those under 18 years of age)  
34 and also by the student. This document shall be executed each year and shall be valid only in the school  
35 year in which it was signed unless parent(s) provide written notice that consent is withdrawn. In order  
36 to rescind the agreement, the student's parent/guardian (or the student who is at least 18 years old) must  
37 provide the director of schools with a written request.

## 38 **E-MAIL**

39 Users with network access shall not utilize district resources to establish electronic mail accounts

1 through third-party providers or any other nonstandard electronic mail system. All data including e-mail  
2 communications stored or transmitted on school system computers shall be monitored.  
3 Employees/students have no expectation of privacy with regard to such data. E-mail correspondence  
4 may be a public record under the public records law and may be subject to public inspection.<sup>2</sup>

#### 5 **INTERNET SAFETY INSTRUCTION<sup>4</sup>**

6 Students will be given appropriate instruction in internet safety as a part of any instruction utilizing  
7 computer resources. The director shall provide adequate in-service instruction on internet safety. Parents  
8 and students will be provided with material to raise awareness of the dangers posed by the internet and  
9 ways in which the internet may be used safely.

#### 10 **SOCIAL NETWORKING**

- 11 1. District staff who have a presence on social networking websites are prohibited from posting  
12 data, documents, photographs, or inappropriate information that is likely to create a material and  
13 substantial disruption of classroom activity.
- 14 2. District staff are prohibited from accessing personal social networking sites on school computers  
15 or during school hours except for legitimate instructional purposes.
- 16 3. The board discourages district staff from socializing with students on social networking websites.  
17 The same relationship, exchange, interaction, information, or behavior that would be  
18 unacceptable in a non-technological medium is unacceptable when done through the use of  
19 technology.

#### 20 **VIOLATIONS**

21 Violations of this policy or a procedure promulgated under its authority shall be handled in accordance  
22 with the existing disciplinary procedures of this District.

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##### Legal References

1. TCA 39-14-602
2. TCA 10-7-512
3. Children's Internet Protection Act (Public Law 106-554)
4. TCA 49-1-221

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##### Cross References

- Use of Electronic Mail (e-mail) 1.805  
School and System Websites 4.407