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7540 - TECHNOLOGY

The Board of Education is committed to the effective use of technology to both enhance the quality of student learning and the efficiency of District operations.

Although students' use of District technology resources (see definition in Bylaw 0100) is required to participate in and benefit from certain aspects of the District's curriculum and to participate in online assessment, unsupervised use of technology resources may be limited or denied if such use is not under the direct supervision of school staff if a student's use of District technology resources is in violation of the District's policy regarding acceptable use. Students and their parents must sign and submit a Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety form. (See also, Policy 7540.03)

The Superintendent shall develop, recommend for approval by the Board, and implement a written District Technology Plan (DTP). One (1) of the primary purposes of the DTP is to evaluate new and emerging technologies and how they will play a role in student achievement and success and/or efficient and effective District operations. The Board will financially support, as the budget permits, the DTP, including recommendations to provide new and developing technology for students and staff.

The DTP shall set forth procedures for the proper acquisition of technology. The DTP shall also provide guidance to staff and students about making safe, appropriate and ethical use of District Technology Resources, as well as inform both staff and students about disciplinary actions that will be taken if its Technology Resources are abused in any way or used in an inappropriate, illegal, or unethical manner. See Policy 7540.03 and AG 7540.03 – Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, and Policy 7540.04 and AG 7540.04 – Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Technology Director, shall review the DTP and recommend the approval of any changes, amendments, or revisions to the Board.

This policy, along with the Student and Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety policies, and the Student Code of Conduct, further govern students' and staff members' use of their personal communication devices (see Policy 5136 and Policy 7530.02). Users have no right or expectation of 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).

Further, safeguards shall be established that the Board's investment in both hardware and software achieves the benefits of technology and inhibits negative side effects, consistent with West Virginia State Board of Education policy 2460. Accordingly, students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior including, but not limited to using social media to interact with others online; interacting with other individuals in chat rooms or on blogs; and, recognizing what constitutes cyber-bullying, understanding cyber-bullying is a violation of Board policy, and learning appropriate responses if they experience cyber-bullying.

Instructional staff and their students may use District Technology Resources to access and use social media for educational purposes, provided the Principal approves, in advance, such access and use.

Students must comply with policy 7540.03 and policy 5136 when using District Technology Resources to access and/or use District-approved social media platforms/sites.

In order to assist educators in maintaining a professional relationship with students and to avoid situations that could lead to inappropriate relationships between school personnel and students, the following regulations apply to all school personnel. Failure to adhere to these regulations may result in disciplinary action and/or loss of licensure.

- A. School personnel will maintain a professional relationship with all school students, both inside and outside the classroom and while using any form of social media and other electronic communication. Unethical conduct includes but is not limited to committing any act of harassment as defined by West Virginia State Board of Education and/or District policy; committing or soliciting any sexual act from any minor or any student regardless of age; soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or inappropriate relationship with a student, regardless of the age of the student; using inappropriate language including, but not limited to, swearing and improper sexual comments; taking inappropriate pictures (digital, photographic, or video) of students or exchanging any inappropriate pictures with students; or engaging in any other behavior that constitutes a violation of District policy or that is detrimental to the health and welfare of students.
- B. The viewing, storing, transmission, or downloading of pornography or sexually suggestive or sexually explicit material or text on a work computer or other electronic storage or communication device, whether at home or at work, by school personnel or anyone else to whom the school personnel has made the computer or other electronic storage or communication device available, is prohibited. This same prohibition applies to a personal computer or other electronic storage or communication device while at school or a school activity.
- C. All information stored within work computers or servers is the property of the State, District or school, and the personnel using such computers/servers/networks have no expectation of privacy with respect to its contents.

The Superintendent shall annually review the DTP and report any recommended and/or mandatory changes, amendments or revisions to the Board.

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