

Policy
Internet Acceptable Use**Descriptor Code: IFBG****Appropriate Use of Electronic Information Resources**

Electronic information resources such as the Internet, World Wide Web, electronic mail (email), Local Area Networks (LAN), Wide Area Networks (WAN), network services, and computers are provided to help achieve the instructional goals of the Stephens County School System. Any activities involving the use of these resources that do not support these instructional goals are forbidden and should be avoided.

When using electronic information resources, students are expected to apply the Student Code of Conduct just as they would in any other instructional activity.

The use of electronic information resources, including the Internet, is a privilege. The privilege of Internet usage for educational purposes may be denied if the user does not adhere to this policy and the school's code of conduct.

CIPA Compliance

It is the policy of Stephens County Schools to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via the Internet; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; (d) monitor the online activities of students; (e) instruct students regarding appropriate online behavior, social media or networking websites, chat rooms, and cyber-bullying awareness and response; and (f) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Student Expectations in the use of Electronic Information Resources

- a. Students shall not access material that is obscene, pornographic, child pornography, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate, as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000, for educational uses.
- b. Students shall not use school resources to engage in hacking or attempts to otherwise compromise system security.
- c. Students shall not allow other students the use of passwords or other credentials at any time.
- d. Students shall not engage in any illegal activities on the Internet.
- e. Students shall only use electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications for school-related purposes.
- f. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as name, school, address, and telephone number, outside of the school network.
- g. Students shall notify school personnel if they become aware of any violation of this policy.
- h. Students shall notify school system personnel if they accidentally violate any portion of this policy.

Any violation of school policy and rules may result in the loss of school-provided access to electronic information resources. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Staff Expectations in the use of Electronic Information Resources

- a. Staff shall not use these resources to access material that is obscene, pornographic, or is child pornography.
- b. Staff shall not use school resources to engage in hacking or attempts to otherwise compromise system security.
- c. Staff shall not allow others the use of their passwords or other credentials except when necessary for the purpose of maintaining or servicing these resources.
- d. Staff will provide for students age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services, behaviors that may constitute cyber bullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyber bullying.

Expectations for staff and students in the use of Electronic Information Resources

- a. Use of these resources to lobby for votes is forbidden.
- b. Use of these resources for commercial advertising is forbidden.
- c. All copyright laws will be observed at all times.
- d. Use of these resources for sending and receiving large numbers of personal messages is prohibited.
- e. All users should recognize that email and Internet use is not private.
- f. Wasteful use of these resources is forbidden.

Any violation of school policy may result in loss of school-provided access to the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedures and practices. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies and the Professional Standards Commission may be involved.

Acceptable Use Contract

Families should be aware that some materials accessible via the Internet might contain content that is illegal, offensive, defamatory, or inaccurate. The Stephens County School System respects the rights of families to decide whether or not to allow a child Internet access. Only those students who return a signed Acceptable Use Contract including parental permission will be allowed access to the Internet.

For elementary school students this contract shall be signed/renewed at the beginning of each school year.

This contract shall be signed/renewed upon entering middle school and shall remain in force as long as the student is in middle school.

This contract shall be signed/renewed upon entering high school and shall remain in force as long as the student is in high school.

Enforcement of policy

- a. The Stephens County School System uses a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to inappropriate material, as described above, including Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the Stephens County School System. However, given the Internet's global nature, it is impossible to control all materials that students or staff may discover. The Stephens County School System disclaims responsibility for inappropriate material students or staff may access on the Internet while using the Stephens County School System's electronic information services.
- b. The technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access may be disabled by a Stephens County School System staff member for bona fide research purposes by an adult.
- c. A Stephens County School System staff member may override the technology platform measure that blocks or filters Internet access for a student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked by the technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access.
- d. Stephens County School System staff will monitor students use of the Internet, through either direct supervision or by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of this policy.
- e. Internet activities may be monitored and/or recorded and reviewed for the purpose of enforcing this policy.
- f. All users of electronic information resources must agree to and sign an Appropriate Use Contract.

Stephens County Schools

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