

4406 – Internet Safety and Use of Technology

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MONITORING: Annually

Each authorized charter school shall adopt a policy and implement procedures to promote Internet safety and the appropriate use of technology by staff and students¹. This policy shall address and/or include:

- (1) An acceptable use policy and internal rules/ethics for the use of school technological resources;
- (2) Guidelines for appropriate instruction and oversight of student Internet use;
- (3) A plan for Internet safety instruction to educate students and staff on appropriate online behavior, including what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate communication between staff and students via the internet, social media, and text messages or phone calls;
- (4) Usage and monitoring of electronic mail by and within the school;
- (5) Prohibited/unlawful activities (with regard to Internet safety and use of technology) and corresponding disciplinary actions;
- (6) Procedures for responding to violations of school policy (with regard to Internet safety and use of technology);
- (7) Technology selected that will filter, block, or otherwise prevent access to pornography or obscenity through online resources²;
- ~~(8)~~ Technology selected that will prohibit and prevent a user from sending receiving, viewing, or downloading materials that are deemed to be harmful to minors;³
- ~~(8)~~(9) Protection of the safety and security of students accessing email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct, electronic communication using internet access provided by the charter school;⁴ and
- ~~(9)~~(10) Prohibition of students using internet access provided by the charter school to access websites, web applications, or software that does not protect students against disclosure, use, or dissemination of their personal information.⁵

In accordance with federal law, a school using E-Rate discounts shall also adopt technology protection measures in the form of a written Internet safety policy. This policy shall⁶:



- (1) Prevent Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or otherwise harmful to minors (if seen by minors);
- (2) Include monitoring of the online activities of minors;
- (3) Provide for the education of minors on appropriate online behavior, including interactions with others on social networking sites and chat rooms as well as cyberbullying awareness and response;
- (4) Address access by minors to inappropriate matters on the internet;
- (5) Address the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- (6) Address unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- (7) Address unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- (8) Address measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

A school participating in the E-Rate program is not required to have separate and/or redundant policies to fulfill requirements of both the Commission and federal law. Rather, these requirements may be combined to form one cohesive school policy.

Legal References:

¹ Enhancing Education through Technology Act of 2001;

20 U.S.C. § 7131

² T.C.A. § 49-1-221.

³ *id.*

⁴ *id.*

⁵ *id.*

⁶ Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA);

47 U.S.C § 254(h)(5)(B)-(C), 254(l)