

4406 – Internet Safety and Use of Technology

ADOPTED: April 9, 2021

Revised: July 25, 2025

MONITORING: Annually

Internet Acceptable Use Policy¹

Each authorized charter school shall adopt a policy and implement procedures to promote Internet safety and the appropriate use of technology by staff and students. 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-Internet safety protocols 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);~~
- ~~6.~~ Technology selected that will ~~filter, block, or otherwise prohibit and prevent~~ ~~prevent~~ access to ~~pornography or obscenity through online resources~~ content by students and staff that²;
 - a. Is deemed harmful to students by the authorized charter school
 - b. Is pornographic or obscene
 - c. Is violent or frightening for the age or maturity level of the student who may access the content and the authorized charter school determines that the content has no educational value;
 - d. Promotes self-harm; and
 - a-e. _____
7. 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. Protection of the safety and security of students who use internet access provided by the authorized charter school to accessing email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct, electronic communication using internet access provided by the charter school;⁴ and
9. 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
10. Guidelines for effective communication with parents to raise awareness of internet safety using existing avenues of communication (e.g. parent-teacher conferences)
11. Procedures for responding to violations of school policy (with regard to Internet safety and use of technology) by students and staff;

The governing board or an authorized charter school is permitted to adopt other terms, conditions, and requirements regarding acceptable uses of the internet among students as deemed appropriate. Where a student is found to have violated the authorized charter school policy on acceptable internet use, the authorized charter school shall notify the parent and/or guardian of the violation.

All authorized charter schools shall evaluate their policies related to internet acceptable use at least twice a year and update the policy, if necessary.

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 shall

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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.

Digital or Online Materials Contracted by a Third Party

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An authorized charter school that contracts for digital or online materials must ensure that the provider:

1. Verifies the materials do not violate T.C.A. § 39-17-902;
2. Filters, blocks, or otherwise prevents access through the digital or online materials to:
 - a. Pornography and obscenity;
 - b. Content that is violent or frightening for the age or maturity level of the student who may access the content if the content has no educational value; and
 - c. Content that promotes self-harm
3. Verifies, in writing, that the technology prevents a user from sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading materials that are harmful to minors, as defined by T.C.A. § 39-17-901; and
4. Removes access to digital or online materials for ages or audiences that the authorized charter school has deemed to be age- or audience-inappropriate, upon request in writing by the authorized charter school within one (1) business day, unless agreed to be extended by mutual consent of the parties.

An authorized charter school that contracts for digital or online materials shall adopt a policy for the receipt of complaints related to digital or online materials, including a timeline for review and response. An authorized charter school is permitted to adopt policies in the currently effective grievance and/or complaint process.

Email Address Created by an Authorized Charter School

An authorized public charter school that creates an email address for students in grades pre-K through 5 shall only permit use of the email address as a data point to identify the student in security or grading software.

Legal References:

¹ 2026 Legislative Session (SB1912)

² T.C.A. § 49-1-221.



³~~id.~~

⁴~~id.~~

⁵~~id.~~

⁷⁶ Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA);

47 U.S.C § 254(h)(5)(B)-(C), 254(I)

⁷ T.C.A. § 49-6-323