

## NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

BP - 6390

Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and other resources. The corporation expects faculty to blend thoughtful use of the Internet throughout the curriculum and provide guidance and instruction to students in its use. Access to Internet resources will be structured in ways that point students to those evaluated prior to use. However, at times, students will be able to move beyond those resources to others not previewed by staff. Outside of school, families bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet usage as they exercise with other information services.

Students utilizing corporation-provided Network and Internet access (Network) must first have the permission of and must be supervised by Western Boone County Community School Corporation's (WBOCCSC) professional staff. Students utilizing school-provided Internet access are responsible for good behavior online just as they are in a classroom or other area of the school. The same general rules for behavior and communications apply.

The purpose of the Network, as it relates to students, is to facilitate and support educational objectives. To remain eligible as users, students' use must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of the WBOCCSC. Access is a privilege, not a right. Users should not assume or expect that files stored on school-based computers will be private. Electronic messages and files stored on school-based computers may be treated like school lockers. Administrators and faculty may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are acting responsibly.

The intent of this policy is to ensure students understand the corporation's expectations of their Network use and to ensure that students comply with all Network and Internet rules approved by the corporation set forth in this policy.

In exchange for the use of the Network resources either at school or away from school, the student understands and agrees to the following:

- A. The use of the Network is a privilege, which may be revoked by the corporation at any time and for any reason. Appropriate reasons for revoking privileges include, but are not limited to, altering system software, placing unauthorized information, computer viruses or harmful programs on or through the computer and/or Network. The WBOCCSC reserves the right to log computer use, monitor file server space, remove files, limit or deny access, and refer the student for other disciplinary actions.
- B. The corporation reserves all rights to any material stored in files and will remove any material, which the corporation, in its sole discretion, believes may be unlawful, obscene, pornographic, abusive, or otherwise objectionable. Students may not use their corporation-approved computer account to obtain, view, download, or otherwise gain access to, distribute, or transmit such materials.
- C. All information and services and features on corporation resources are intended for the private use of its registered users and any use of them for commercial-for-profit or other unauthorized purposes (i.e. advertisements, political lobbying) is expressly forbidden.

- D. Corporation resources are intended for the exclusive use of their registered users. The student is responsible for use of his/her account, password, access, and privileges. Any problems arising from the use of the student's account are the responsibility of the account holder. Use of an account by someone other than the registered account holder is forbidden and may be grounds for disciplinary action including but not limited to the loss of Network privileges.
- E. Any misuse of the account and/or access to the Network will result in suspension of the account privileges and/or other disciplinary action determined by the Wbccsc. Access includes the use of school computers, personal communication devices such as cell phones, and any other device connecting to the Internet or Network. Students are not allowed to connect personal equipment to the Network without prior approval and only for educational purposes. Should a student use a personal device to connect to the Internet via other means (i.e. Cellular Network) while on school grounds, this acceptable use policy also applies. Misuse shall include, but is not limited to:
1. Intentionally seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users
  2. Disrupting the operation of the Network or any other computer system through abuse of or vandalizing, damaging, unauthorized access/hacking, or disabling the hardware or software
  3. Malicious use of the Network through cyberbullying, hate mail, harassment, profanity, vulgar statements, or discriminatory remarks
  4. Interfering with others use of the Network or accessing the materials, information, or files of another without their prior approval
  5. Use for non-curricular/educational communication such as, but not limited to instant messaging and online chatting. Responding to unsolicited online contact is strictly prohibited for student safety.
  6. Unauthorized installation, downloading, copying, or use of licensed or copyrighted software or plagiarizing materials
  7. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information
  8. Misrepresenting others on the Network or allowing anyone else to use an account other than the account holder
  9. Accessing, uploading, downloading, or distributing pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material. "Sexting" is also expressly forbidden.
  10. Violating any local, state, or federal statute
- F. Corporation Network resources are to be used exclusively for the support of the academic program, not for entertainment.
- G. Students bringing data files into the system agree to check the file with a virus- detection program before opening the file for use. Should the student deliberately or maliciously infect the Network with a virus or cause damage through other vandalism, the student will be liable for any and all repair costs to restore the Network to full operation and will be subject to additional disciplinary measures.
- H. The student may only log on and use the Network under the immediate supervision of a staff member and only with the student's authorized user account.

Violation of corporation policy and rules will result in appropriate discipline, which may include suspension of computer access to be determined by the Wbccsc staff. Additional disciplinary action will be determined at the building level in keeping with rules set forth in the student handbook. When or where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved. Students and parents are liable for damages to corporation owned equipment due to misuse or neglect.

The Wbccsc makes no warranties of any kind, neither expressed nor implied, for the Network/Internet access it is providing. The corporation will not be responsible for any damages users suffer, including, but not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays or interruptions of service. The corporation will not be responsible for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information.

Wbccsc will make all reasonable attempts to prevent unauthorized access to students' personal information through the Internet. The corporation's intent is to make Network/Internet access available for educational goals and objectives. The corporation will filter and monitor students' Internet activities. Corporation Internet traffic travels through a content filter which blocks access to content that is obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors. Even though the corporation institutes these technical methods/systems to regulate students' Internet access, these methods cannot guarantee 100% filter accuracy or compliance with the corporation's acceptable use policy. The corporation is committed to helping students use the Internet responsibly, but it is not possible to monitor student usage at all times. To that end, building principals are responsible for providing training so that teachers and staff under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of the Network and all corporation technology resources. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information. By using the corporation's Network/Internet resources, students agree to the rules and regulations set forth in this policy. This policy, upon the Wbccsc Board of Trustees approval, will be published on each school and corporation websites, student handbooks, and available in hard copy in each building's office.

Date Adopted: 03/08/10

Date Revised: 01/10/22