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Board Approval: 6/22/2017

Dallas County Acceptable Use Policy

Purpose

Dallas County School System (DCSS) maintains a computer network and computer systems to provide the students, faculty and staff of DCSS with access to a host of resources, both at within the DCSS and on the Internet. The DCSS network is a private network owned by the DCSS and was established to support the school's educational mission and business operations.

Responsibilities:

As a student within the DCSS, you have access to the network and Internet. The network is viewed as an extension of the DCSS and all standards of behavior outlined in the Student Handbook also apply to your activities on the network. You are expected to use the network in a mature, ethical, and responsible manner. Personal use is allowed but DCSS reserves the right to limit your access. Access to the Dallas County School Network is a privilege and not a right.

Unacceptable Uses and Behavior

Activities that are considered violations of this acceptable use policy and school rules include:

Illegal Activities

- involvement in any activity prohibited by law
- intentional use of invasive software such as "viruses," "worms," "Trojan Horses" and other malicious software.
- interfering with the normal and proper operation of this network, the Internet or any other network. This includes: "hacking", "cracking", probing, attempting to gain access to network servers and equipment, utilizing excessive amounts of bandwidth, and setting up servers on the network of any type without permission.
- adversely affecting the ability of others to use equipment or services
- use of a camera or microphone in any school building or on campus is prohibited without direct permission by a teacher or another member of the community and all parties involved in the photo, video or recording. Students must use good judgment and the student agrees that the camera will not be used to take inappropriate, illicit or sexually explicit photographs or videos, nor will it be used to embarrass anyone in any way. Any use of a camera in a restroom or the locker room, regardless of intent, is strictly prohibited. Students may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person.

Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

- transferring, utilizing or storing materials in violation of copyright laws or license agreements. This includes software, music files, images and text.

- plagiarizing work found on the Internet - all sources of work must be cited and credited

Security

- tampering with computers, printers, network devices and other equipment belonging to DCSS or other people.
- using the network for financial and/or personal gain or for political lobbying except as expressly allowed during a school activity
- attempting to logon to the network as the system administrator or gain access beyond your authorized access level.
- attempting to bypass security systems and software.
- sharing passwords or using someone else's password or attempting to discover another person's password.
- trespassing in another's folders, work or files or using another person's account.
- changing computer files that do not belong to you
- storing or transferring unnecessarily large files

Conduct

- conducting yourself in ways that are harmful or deliberately offensive to others
- creating, transferring or otherwise using any text, image, movie, or sound recording that contains pornography, profanity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others
- sending or forwarding "chain" type letters, hate mail, anonymous messages, threatening messages, harassment, racial, sexist, and discriminatory remarks and other antisocial behaviors
- using profanity, vulgarities, obscenity or other language which tends to be offensive to or tends to degrade others
- viewing, storing or transferring obscene, sexually explicit or pornographic material
- posting or sending messages that
- are personal attacks, including prejudicial and discriminatory attacks.
- could cause damage or a danger of disruption.
- contain false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
- harassing another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages - you must stop.
- posting personal contact information about yourself or other people. This includes your address, telephone number, school address, etc.

Disciplinary actions:

Violation of this Acceptable Use Policy is considered a violation of a school rule. Some behaviors are considered violations of a major school rule. Violations will result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

- verbal warning
- written warning
- restriction of access privileges
- removal from a class activity

- removal from a course
- confiscation of computer equipment
- student detention, restrictions, or work hours
- suspension or expulsion
- payment for damages due to your actions
- referral to legal authorities

Privacy & Free Speech

The DCSS Network is a private network owned by DCSS. The Network is maintained and managed by the system administrator in such a way as to insure its availability and reliability in performing its educational mission. Users have no reasonable expectation of privacy concerning any materials transferred over or stored within the DCSS Network. The network is routinely monitored and maintenance is also performed on a regular basis.

Your right to Free Speech will be preserved as long as you do not violate the standards put forth in this policy, the DCSS Student Social Media Policy or the DCSS Student Handbook.

Limited Liability

DCSS makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through DCSS Network will be error-free or without defect. DCSS will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. DCSS is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. DCSS will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through your use of the system. You are responsible for your activities.