

COOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

Introduction

The internet is a global communication network that allows almost all computers worldwide to connect and exchange information. A vast number of resources are accessible locally, nationally, and internationally. The goal of the Cook County School District (CCSD) is to provide this service to teachers, staff, and students as a privilege, not a right. The CCSD believes in educating the 21st century students by allowing them to access technology through different means. The CCSD encourages and supports appropriate and responsible use of technology and will take reasonable measures to ensure that students are protected and that the technology aligns with educational objectives. The internet is a resource that is intended to promote educational excellence and to facilitate collaboration, innovation, and engagement with the support and supervision of parents, teachers, and support staff.

With access to computers and people all over the world comes the potential availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The CCSD believes that the value of information, interaction, and research capabilities available outweighs the possibility that users may obtain material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the Cook County School District. In an effort to aid the students and staff in a better understanding of proper computer, network, and Internet safety, the following permissions are set forth. Violation of the following permissions will not be tolerated. Each user is responsible for all of his/her actions and activities involving the computers and the network. Due to the nature of the internet, parents and students must recognize that students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgement in their use of the internet.

Definitions

Network includes all local area networking and wide area networking within the school community as well as all online and direct-wired networking such as Internet to which the school network may be linked.

Digital Technology shall mean all forms of digital technology, including software, hardware, and digital services of any nature and kind. This includes, but is not limited to, computers; servers; networks; software; programs; digital files, folders, and data of any nature; the Internet; cell phones, e-mail; blogs; websites; and such similar technologies.

User is a district employee, approved volunteer, or student.

User I.D. shall mean the identification number(s) and/or letter(s) that is unique and that is assigned to the individual student or employee.

Acceptable Use

Digital technology will be used for learning, teaching, and administrative purposes consistent with the established mission and goal of CCSD. Training will be made available to all users in CCSD and will emphasize the ethical use of digital technology.

- Use the Internet and computer network only for educational purposes.
- Student use of digital technology is only allowed when supervised or granted permission by a staff member.
- Communicate with others using respect and courtesy.
- Maintain and respect the privacy of others (name, password, other personal information).
- Accept responsibility for all material received and stored in the user's account.
- Report any incident of harassment, inappropriate materials, inappropriate use of the network, and/or violations of policy to teachers or administrators.
- Comply with copyright laws.

Users Will Not:

- Use Internet accounts, user ID, and passwords of others, nor assist others in violating this rule by sharing information or passwords.
- Attempt to gain unauthorized access (i.e. hacking) into any network, system, program, account, etc.
- Damage or alter any technological device (CPU, iPad, ChromeBook, etc.), systems, or networks.
- Access or distribute inappropriate or illegal material.

Students acknowledge that:

- The technology is allowed for educational purposes and only to enhance the classroom experience. Teachers will decide when it may be used and for what purpose(s). The technology may only be used to access files on computer or Internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum.
- The technology may not be used to record, transmit or post photographic images or video of a person, or persons on campus during school activities and/or hours unless authorized by the teacher or administration.
- The school's network filters will be applied to one's connection to the Internet, and there will be no attempts to bypass those filters.
- The technology may not be used to infect, damage, alter, or destroy any network files or equipment.
- Processing or accessing information on school property related to "hacking", altering, or bypassing network security policies is in violation of Board Policy.

Consequences of Improper Use

Any user violating these provisions, applicable state and federal laws, posted classroom rules or system policies is subject to loss of network privileges and any other District disciplinary options, including criminal prosecution. School administrators will make the determination as to what constitutes unacceptable use and their decision is final. The user and/or the user's parent(s) /legal guardian(s) shall be responsible for compensating the school system for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the school system relating to or arising out of the user's violation of this policy.

The Children's Internet Protection Act

<https://www.fcc.gov/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act>

Georgia Department of Education Policies and Procedures

Acceptable Use Guideline for Technology Resources, State Schools

<http://goo.gl/jf7UgS>