

Students

Student Computer Acceptable Use Policy

It is the policy of the Stratford Public Schools to promote technology that supports 21st Century Learning. Stratford Public Schools recognizes that inherent in the use of the network and its associated infrastructure, is the risk of access to inappropriate content and/or behavior. The procedures and guidelines related to the computer systems may be changed from time to time to meet future needs and circumstances. For the purposes of this policy, "misuse of the Internet or network" means any violation of this policy or any other use not included in the agreement which has the effect of harming another or his or her property.

It is the policy of the Stratford Public Schools to: filter Internet content in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254; ensure that staff have made a good faith effort to supervise and monitor usage of the computer systems for adherence to the Computer System Acceptable Use Policy; promote the safety and security of users when using electronic communications such as email, blogs, wikis, and other forms of direct communications.

The superintendent or her/his designee is responsible for the development of administrative regulations that govern the use of the computer systems.

- A. The following sets forth the procedures to implement Board Policy 5136.5 concerning the acceptable use of the computer systems in the Stratford Public Schools. Misuse of the district's computer systems is strictly prohibited. Students of the Stratford Public Schools who misuse the network or its technology are subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action, should it be necessary relative to this policy, will be applied in accord with applicable laws and other applicable Board policies.
- B. Stratford Public Schools designs its instructional program to ensure that each student becomes proficient in the skills needed to be successful in the 21st century. The Stratford Public Schools offers its students access to the Internet and other electronic networks. Access to these resources represents a privilege, not a right, and carries with it responsibilities for each user. Each user must utilize technology in an ethical manner and respect the work of other network users. Misuse of the networks means any violation of this agreement or any action on the network that harms another or his or her property. Students are expected to act in a considerate and responsible manner in using such systems.
- C. The computer network and Internet are intended for educational use, and not for personal use. Personal use of district technology resources that interferes with instruction is prohibited.

- D. The network, while connected to the Internet, represents school property. Users should have no expectation of privacy in the use of the district's computer systems, including while on the network. The Stratford Public Schools reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store any content and any usage of the network, Internet, or computer equipment at any time without notice. As part of the monitoring and reviewing process, the district will retain the capacity to bypass any individual password of a student or other user. The system's security aspects, such as personal passwords and the message delete function for email can be bypassed for these purposes. The district's ability to monitor and review is not restricted or neutralized by these devices. The monitoring and reviewing process also includes, but is not limited to: oversight of Internet site access; the right to review emails sent and received; the right to track student's access to blogs, electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms, and the right to review a student's document downloading and printing. All collected information and all files shall remain the property of the Stratford Public Schools and no users shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.**
- E. Stratford Public Schools makes its computer systems available for the purposes of educational use. The Stratford Public Schools will take reasonable measures to: ensure the safety of users of the network and Internet by prohibiting unauthorized access to the network; filter Internet content for obscenity and inappropriate grade-level materials; and ensure the safety of students communicating with electronic resources such as wikis, email, and blogs.
- F. Students will be required to adhere to a set of policies and procedures, as set forth in the student handbook. Each student will sign a written agreement of this policy. Violations may lead to disciplinary measures as outlined in the Board's student discipline policy.

Stratford students agree to use the district's computers for appropriate purposes, which includes but is not limited to the following guidelines:

1. Use the network for legitimate educational purposes only.
2. Refrain from sending any form of communication that harasses, threatens, solicits others to behave in an inappropriate manner, contains solicitation, includes vulgar language, slanders, or intimidates any person at any time.
- 3. Refrain from sending any message that breaches the district's confidentiality requirements, or the confidentiality of students or staff.**
4. Handle all network equipment and folders with care; avoid destroying, modifying, moving, or deleting resources without permission.
5. Refrain from "hacking", breaching, or disabling any network system, security, and firewall, or use proxy gateways or other technologies designed to bypass the monitoring and filtering software.
6. Refrain from attaching any device or downloading any software that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts network flow.
7. Refrain from sharing network, proxy, or any other passwords.
8. Refrain from transmitting or receiving inappropriate email communications or accessing inappropriate information on the Internet, including vulgar, lewd, or obscene words or pictures.

9. Respect the safety and confidentiality of yourself and others when posting information on websites by only using first names as identifiers.
10. Follow and respect all laws regarding plagiarism when gathering information or posting it electronically.
11. Adhere to copyright and licensing agreements for all software and refrain from sending any copyrighted material over the system.
12. Refrain from gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to computer systems.
13. Refrain from damaging computers, computer files, computer systems, or computer networks.
14. Refrain from using another person's password under any circumstances.
15. Refrain from trespassing in or tampering with any other person's folders, work, or files.

Additionally, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law, the Board policy, or by school rules or regulations, use of these computer systems for the purpose of carrying out such behavior or activity is also prohibited.

- G. Misuse of network or Internet resources or violation of any of these regulations may result in disciplinary action including, suspension, expulsion, or criminal proceedings. The superintendent or his designee reserves the right to determine the appropriate discipline for any particular set of circumstances. In the event of suspension, or expulsion the superintendent and/or Board will follow established disciplinary procedures.
- H. Anyone who is aware of problems with, or misuse of the Stratford Public Schools' computer systems, or has a question regarding the appropriate use of the computer systems, should report this to his/her principal, or to the Director of Technology.
- I. Most importantly the Board urges any student who receives or views any harassing, threatening, intimidating, or other improper message through the Stratford Public Schools' computer systems to report this immediately. It is the Board's policy that no student should have to tolerate such treatment regardless of the identity of the sender of the message.

A copy of this policy will be distributed to staff, students, and parents. The administration of each building shall maintain a record of such distribution. In addition, a copy of the policy will be posted in each building, and contained in the student handbook.

Legal References:

Children's Internet Protection Act: Pub. L. 106-554

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004: Pub. L. No. 108-446, 118 Stat. 2647

Universal Service Fund Requirement: 47 USC 254h

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99

Freedom of Information Act: 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.441 - 0.470