486 - STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONIC AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION

Introduction

The Board of Education recognizes the benefits of student access to electronic and social media communication; however, the Board is also aware of the risks involved.

This policy is intended to provide a wide range of access to electronic communications systems for the purpose of supporting the goals, objectives, and activities as prescribed by the Ministry of Education and the School District.

While the intent of the Board is to enhance educational opportunities for staff, students, and parents, the Board also remains committed to responsible digital citizenship and to minimizing the risks associated with the use of electronic communications systems and access to social media.

Definitions

Digital Citizenship
Digital citizenship is defined as appropriate, responsible behaviour with regard to technology use.

Digital Footprint
A digital footprint is the data trace or trail left by someone's activity in a digital environment.

Educational Purposes
Educational purposes are those purposes which directly support student learning as outlined in the prescribed learning outcomes mandated by the Ministry of Education.

Electronic Communications Systems
Electronic communications systems include all electronic devices and related processes used for the purposes of transmitting, retrieving and storing of voice, data, or graphic images. These devices include but are not limited to computers, servers, local area networks, intranets, the Internet, electronic mail systems, online conferences, chats, blogs, videoconferences, cell phones, digital cameras, video cameras, fax machines, electronic tablets and handheld devices.

Social Media
Social media is the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue.

Policy

Responsibilities of the Student

In accessing electronic communications systems and social media applications, it is expected that students will:

1. Sign the Student Network Account and Internet Agreement, on an annual basis, in order to gain access to and use of the district's electronic communications systems, and understand that compliance is a condition of access.

2. Demonstrate digital citizenship, both during and outside of school hours, by conducting all related activities in a responsible, ethical, legal and respectful manner in accordance with the District and School's Codes of Conduct and the Student Network Account and Internet Agreement.

3. Practice safe online behaviour and report any inappropriate communication (e.g. distribution of information harmful to others or information regarding a potentially dangerous situation that may threaten the safety of others).

4. Protect access to their individual network accounts by the use of a private, personal password, ensure that their personal password is not shared, and agree not to use the password of any other individual.

5. Respect the privacy of others (e.g. students, staff, parents and community members), including but not limited to, the sharing of photos, videos, and personal information, without informed consent.

6. Ensure that personal use of electronic communications systems neither interferes with, nor distracts from, their learning or the learning of others.

Consequences

Use of electronic and social media communication which violates the terms outlined in policy, the Student Network Account and Internet Agreement, or the District or School Code of Conduct may result in serious consequences including definite or indefinite suspensions and/or police intervention.

Date Agreed: November 23, 2011 (interim)
March 28, 2012 (final)
Date Amended:
Related Documents:

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