

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

The Board of Education is committed to the effective use of technology to both enhance the quality of student learning and the efficiency of District operations ~~within the school system.~~

~~However, the~~ Students' use of ~~the District's network and t~~Technology Resources (see definitions in Bylaw 0100) ~~by students~~ is a privilege, not a right. ~~As a prerequisite,~~ students and their parents must sign and submit a *Student Network and Internet Technology Acceptable Use and Safety* form. (See also, Policy 7540.03)

The Superintendent shall develop and implement a written District Technology Plan (DTP) which is part of the District School Improvement Plan. One (1) of the primary purposes of the DTP is to evaluate new and emerging technologies and how they will play a role in student achievement and success and/or efficient and effective District operations. The Board will financially support, as the budget permits, the DTP, including recommendations to provide new and developing technology for students and staff. Procedures for the proper acquisition of technology shall be set forth in the DTP. The DTP shall also provide guidance to staff and students about making safe, appropriate and ethical use of the District's network(s), as well as inform both staff and students about disciplinary actions that will be taken if Board technology and/or networks are abused in any way or used in an inappropriate, illegal, or unethical manner.

The DTP shall set forth procedures for the proper acquisition of technology. The DTP shall also provide guidance to staff and students about making safe, appropriate and ethical use of District Technology Resources, as well as inform both staff and students about disciplinary actions that will be taken if its Technology Resources are abused in any way or used in an inappropriate, illegal, or unethical manner. See Policy 7540.03 and AG 7540.03 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, and Policy 7540.04 and AG 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Director of Technology, shall review the DTP.

This policy, along with the Student and Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety policies, and the Student Code of Conduct, further govern students' and staff members' use of their personal communication devices (see Policy 5136 and Policy 7530.02). Users have no right or expectation of privacy when using District technology resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails and records of their online activity when using the District's computer network and/or Internet connection).

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROPERTY
7540/page 2 of 3

Further safeguards shall be established so that the Board's investment in both hardware and software achieves the benefits of technology and inhibits negative side effects. Accordingly, students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior including, but not limited to, using social media to interact with others online; interacting with other individuals in chat rooms or on blogs; and, recognizing what constitutes cyberbullying, understanding cyberbullying is a violation of [District Board](#) policy, and learning appropriate responses if they ~~are victims of~~ [experience](#) cyberbullying.

For purposes of this policy, social media is defined as Internet-based applications that facilitate communication (e.g., interactive/two-way conversation/dialogue) and networking between individuals or groups. Social media is “essentially a category of online media where people are talking, participating, sharing, networking, and bookmarking online. Most social media services encourage discussion, feedback, voting, comments, and sharing of information from all interested parties.” [Quote from Ron Jones of Search Engine Watch] Social media provides a way for people to stay “connected or linked to other sites, resources, and people.” Examples include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, webmail, text messaging, chat, blogs, and instant messaging (IM). Social media does not include sending or receiving e-mail through the use of District-issued e-mail accounts.

~~Social media shall be defined as internet based applications (such as Facebook, My Space, Twitter, et cetera) that turn communication into interactive dialogue between users. The Board authorizes the instructional staff to access social media from the District’s network, provided such access has an educational purpose for which the instructional staff member has the prior approval of the Principal.~~

Staff may use social media for business-related purposes. Authorized staff may use District Technology Resources to access and use social media to increase awareness of District programs and activities, as well as to promote achievements of staff and students, provided the Superintendent approves, in advance, such access and use. Use of social media for business-related purposes is subject to Michigan's public records laws and staff members are responsible for archiving their social media and complying with the District's record retention schedule. See Policy 8310 – Public Records and AG 8310A – Public Records.

Instructional staff and their students may use District Technology Resources to access and use social media for educational purposes, provided the Principal approves, in advance, such access and use.

~~However, personal access and use of social media, blogs, or chat rooms from the District’s network is expressly prohibited and shall subject students and staff members to discipline in accordance with Board policy.~~

Students must comply with Policy 7540.03 and Policy 5136 when using District Technology Resources to access and/or use social media. Similarly, staff must comply with Policy 7540.04 and Policy 7530.02 when using District Technology Resources to access and/or use social media.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROPERTY
7540/page 3 of 3

~~The Board authorizes the access and use of social media from the District's network to increase awareness of District programs and activities, as well as to promote achievements of staff and students, provided such access and use is approved in advance by the Superintendent.~~

~~The Superintendent shall review the DTP and report any changes, amendments or revisions to the Board annually.~~

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