



Gainesville City Schools Computer and Network Resources

Acceptable Use Policy

It is the belief of the Gainesville City Schools that the use of technology for the purpose of information acquisition, retrieval, manipulation, distribution and storage is an important part of preparing students to live in the 21st century. Further, it is believed that a "technology rich" classroom can significantly enhance both the teaching and learning process. This technology includes computer hardware, software, local and wide area networks and access to the Internet. Due to the complex nature of these systems and the magnitude of information available via the Internet, the Gainesville City School System believes guidelines regarding acceptable use are warranted in order to serve the educational needs of students.

It shall be the policy of the Gainesville City School System that the system shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying "technology protection measure," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(1) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2001, i.e. an Internet filter; and
2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in Section 1703(b)(1) and (2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2001. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to:
 - a. Provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;
 - b. Educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act;
 - c. Prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unauthorized activities by minors online;
 - d. Prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors in accordance with Federal FERPA regulations; and
 - e. Restrict minors' access to materials "harmful to minors," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2001.

The district's technology resources are provided for educational purposes that promote and are consistent with the instructional goals of the Gainesville City School System. Use of computers and network resources outside the scope of this educational purpose is prohibited. Students and employees accessing network services or any school computer shall comply with the district's acceptable use guidelines. The district reserves the right to monitor, access, and disclose to appropriate parties the contents of any user's files, activities, or communications.

It must also be understood that the Internet is a global, fluid community, which remains unregulated. While it is an extremely valuable tool for educational research, there are sections that are not commensurate with community, school, or family standards. It is the belief of the Gainesville City School System that the Internet's advantages far outweigh its disadvantages. The Gainesville City Schools Technology Department will provide an Internet screening system, or filter, which blocks access to a large percentage of inappropriate sites. It should not be assumed, however, that users are completely prevented from accessing inappropriate materials or from sending or receiving objectionable communications.

Additionally, access to the Internet and computer resources is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, users violating the Gainesville City School System's acceptable use policy shall be subject to revocation of these privileges and potential disciplinary action.