

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

No. 815

Section: 800 Operations

Title: Acceptable Use of
Internet, Technology, and
Network Resources

Adopted: March 15, 2012

Revised: January 25, 2024

815 ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY, AND NETWORK
RESOURCES

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) recognizes the importance of providing students and staff with access to internet and technology resources as a necessary piece of building core academic knowledge and promoting safe and welcoming learning environments. The purpose of this Policy is to provide students, staff, and other authorized persons using the School District of Philadelphia (“District”) networks and equipment with the standards on using these resources safely and inform stakeholders of these standards.

Authority

The Pennsylvania Public School Code permits the Board to adopt and enforce such reasonable rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper, regarding the appropriate use of internet and technology resources provided by the District. [1]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Information Technology and Data Management (OITDM), to develop Administrative Procedures that mandate the standard of acceptable use of District internet and technology resources in conformity with applicable law and Board policies. [1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12][13][14][15][16]

These Administrative Procedures shall at a minimum include the following:

1. Acceptable Use Agreements accessible for various types of users;
2. Guidelines regarding good digital citizenship accessible for various types of users;
3. Webmaster Agreements for those authorized individuals;

4. Wireless Internet Access Terms and Conditions;
5. Protocols for reporting suspicious activities and/or conduct that violates this Policy; and
6. Protocols for requesting exceptions to this Policy and related documents, in conformity with law and Board policy.

Users shall have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, delete, receive or display on or over the District's internet, applications, systems, computers or network resources, including personal files or any use of the District's internet, computers or network resources, including stored files and email. The District reserves the right to monitor, track, and log network access and use; monitor file server space utilization by District users; or deny access to prevent unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal activity and may revoke access privileges and/or administer appropriate disciplinary action. The District shall cooperate to the extent legally required with the Internet Service Providers (ISPs), local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to the misuse of the District's internet and technology resources. [6][7][8]

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

The District shall inform staff, students, parents/guardians and other users about this policy annually, at a minimum.[17]

The District-provided email is the official email of record for the District and must be used by employees and authorized users for all official District business, including but not limited to email communication with District staff, students, parents/guardians, family members, associates, contractors, external agencies, and service providers. Similarly, students are encouraged to use District email to communicate in connection with educational, extracurricular, and cocurricular activities only.

Users are prohibited from directly registering or obtaining Internet domain names, Internet address space, security certificates or other related Internet services on behalf of or representing any school, administrative office or the district as a whole.

The Board requires all users to fully comply with this policy.

Users are expected to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner in accordance with Board policy and District administrative procedures, accepted rules of network etiquette, and federal and state laws and regulations. [1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12][13][14]

Legal References:

1. [20 U.S. Code § 1232g, et seq.](#)
2. [47 U.S.C. § 254](#)
3. [47 CFR § 54.520](#)
4. [15 U.S.C. §§ 6501–6506](#)
5. [Policy 300- Employee Code of Ethics](#)
6. [Policy 218- Student Conduct and Discipline](#)

7. [Policy 233 - Suspension and Expulsion](#)
8. [Policy 317- Employee Conduct and Reporting Requirements](#)
9. [Policy 717- District-Issued Mobile Communications Devices](#)
10. [Policy 717.1- District-Issued Computers and Mobile Computing Devices](#)
11. [Policy 317- Employee Conduct and Reporting Requirements](#)
12. [Policy 316- Staff Use of Social Media and Electronic Communications](#)
13. [Policy 249- Bullying/Cyberbullying](#)
14. [Policy 237- Student Use of Electronic Devices](#)
15. [Policy 235- Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)
16. [Policy 220- Student Expression](#)
17. [24 P.S. §4604](#)

Related Information:

[24 P.S. §4601, et seq.](#)

[Policy 103 - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices](#)

[Policy 103.1 - Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students With Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students](#)