

**IFBG-R Internet Acceptable Use**

7/24/13

**RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:**

The Cobb County School District (District) believes that technology and its utilization enhances the quality and delivery of education and is an important part of preparing children for life in the 21st century. The community of technology users must understand that the Internet is a global, fluid community, which remains largely unregulated. While it is an extremely valuable educational tool, there are sections that are not commensurate with community, school, or family standards. The District believes that the Internet's advantages far outweigh its disadvantages and will provide an Internet filtering device which shall be used to block or filter access to inappropriate information and material on the Internet, in electronic mail or other forms of electronic communications. It should not be assumed that users are completely prevented from accessing inappropriate materials or from sending or receiving objectionable communications.

Additionally, the District considers access to the Internet and computer resources a privilege, not a right. Therefore, users violating Board of Education Policies or District Administrative Rules may be subject to revocation of these privileges and potential disciplinary action.

**RULE:****A. AUTHORITY:****1. The District:**

The District provides its students and authorized employees with access to and use of its technology consistent with the District's vision and strategic goals. Therefore, the District reserves the right to monitor, access, and disclose the contents of any user's files, activities, or communications to any appropriate authority, including law enforcement.

**2. Employees:**

Principals and Administrators will endeavor to inform students and employees of the responsibilities associated with use of the District's technology. To this end, Administrative Rule IFBG-R (Internet Acceptable Use) and Board of Education Policy IFBGE (Internet Safety) are included in the Parent Information Guide. Any attempts to harm, modify, destroy or otherwise change the District's data and technology should be reported to appropriate District authorities. Staff will refer to District Administrative Rules governing employee and student conduct, including, Administrative Rules JCDA-R (Elementary), JCDA-R (Middle), JCDA-R (High), when addressing inappropriate use or abuse of District technology privileges.

**3. Students:**

Students will adhere to all policies, Rules and regulations issued by the District and their respective school.

**B. PENALTIES FOR PROHIBITED USE:**

Students and employees who violate District/school policies, Rules or regulations governing the use of the District's technology and network resources may have their network privileges suspended or revoked and will be subject to District Administrative Rules applying to employee and student conduct including, for students, the provisions of the appropriate Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Rules JCDA-R [Elementary], JCDA-R [Middle], JCDA-R [High]).

**C. WEB SITE PUBLISHING:**

1. Publication of student information, work and pictures is governed by Administrative Rule JG(1)-R (Monitoring-Recording Staff and Students).

2. Web pages or blogs hosted on or linked from Cobb County School District's Web server will not:
  - a. Include any information that indicates the physical location of a student at a given time, other than attendance at a particular school or participation in school activities where appropriate consent has been received.
  - b. Display personal information, work samples, photographs, videos, streaming video, or audio clips of any identifiable student without a prior written permission slip (Form JG(1)-1 [Permission to Display Student Photograph/Name/Work Sample]) if a parent/guardian has "opted out" of the release of directory information as stated in the Directory Information Statement in the Parent Information Guide.
3. Students may retain the copyright on the material they create that is subsequently displayed or performed on the District's Web site or individual school Web pages or blogs.

#### **D. EMPLOYEE CREATED WEB PAGES AND/OR BLOGS:**

The District assumes no responsibility for schools or individual employees who do not comply with the following provisions:

1. Employees may create or link to individual Web pages and/or blogs on an external site provided these external sites meet the District's definition of "educational purposes" as stated in Section G below. Any links to external sites that fail to meet that definition will be removed.
2. Each employee will be responsible for maintaining his/her Web pages or blogs in cooperation with the school Web Publisher. Specifically, all material originating from the employee and placed on the employee Web pages/blogs will be consistent with the Web Page Publishing and Compliance Guidelines and approved through the compliance process established by the District Web Publisher (Web Master).
3. The District Web site and individual employee Web pages/blogs will not:
  - a. Contain public message boards or chat-room areas. However, employees may allow two-way communication on blogs or private message boards as a part of the classroom curriculum as long as the employee previews (moderates) and approves all blog comments before they are posted on the Internet.
  - b. Allow the display of unsolicited comments from the general public. Any solicited public feedback should be reviewed by the employee before posting. Any questionable or inappropriate content will immediately be removed by the employee, the School Web Publisher or by the District Web Publisher (Web Master) with no notification.

#### **E. DEFINITIONS:**

As used in this Rule, the terms and definitions contained in CIPA are expressly incorporated herein by reference and the following additional definitions shall also apply:

**"Blogs"** (short for Web Logs) means dynamic web sites consisting of regularly updated entries displayed in reverse chronological order. They read like a diary or journal, but with the most recent entry at the top. Blogs can allow for open comments meaning other individuals can respond to a posted entry. Open comments is an optional feature for most blog Web sites.

**"Chat Rooms"** means a Web site, part of a Web site, or part of an online service, that provides a venue for communities of users with a common interest to communicate in real time.

**"Educational purposes"** means it relates to curriculum and instruction, research, career or professional development, or administrative purposes.

**"E-mail"** means an electronic message generated using the District's e-mail and/or Web based e-mail. It is also used generically to mean either the District's e-mail system or a Web-based e-mail system.

**"External site"** means Web sites and materials not hosted on the District's Web server.

**"Inappropriate material"** means material that does not serve an instructional or educational purpose and that includes, but is not limited, to material that:

- (i) is profane, vulgar, lewd, obscene, offensive, indecent, sexually explicit, or threatening;
- (ii) advocates illegal or dangerous acts;
- (iii) causes disruption to Cobb County School District, its employees or students;
- (iv) advocates violence; or
- (v) contains knowingly false, recklessly false, or defamatory information.

**"Instructional activity"** means a classroom activity that focuses on appropriate and specific learning goals and objectives.

**"Social networking"** means the use of Web sites or other online technologies to communicate with people and share information, resources, etc.

**"Teacher directed"** means that the teacher gives to the students' specific instructions for activities and assignments.

**"Teacher supervised"** means that a staff member will oversee the activities of the students.

**"Technology"** means but is not limited to electronic media systems such as computers, computing devices, peripheral devices, telecommunication equipment, electronic networks, messaging, and Web site publishing, and the associated hardware and software programs used for purposes such as, but not limited to, developing, retrieving, storing, disseminating, and accessing instructional, educational, and administrative information.

**"Users"** means District students, certain employees, including school and Central Office staff, and other authorized persons who use the District's technology.

**"Web Page"** means a single document or file on the Web, identified by a unique URL.

**"Web Site"** means a collection of "pages" or files on the Web that are linked together and maintained by a company, organization, or individual.

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Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

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Conforming Changes: 5/31/13

Revised: 7/24/13

Legal Reference

O.C.G.A. 16-09-0090	Georgia Computer Systems Protection Act
O.C.G.A. 16-09-0091	Computer Related Crime
O.C.G.A. 16-09-0092	Definitions
O.C.G.A. 16-09-0093	Computer crimes defined
O.C.G.A. 16-09-0093.1	Misleading transmittal
O.C.G.A. 16-09-0094	Violations
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0149	Online internet safety education
O.C.G.A. 39-05-0002	Subscriber's control of minor's use of internet
O.C.G.A. 16-11-0037.1	Dissemination of information relating to terroristic acts
20 USC 6777	Internet Safety
47 USC 254(h)	Universal Service
15 USC 6501	Children's Online Privacy Protection Act - Definitions
15 USC 6502	Children's Online Privacy Protection Act - Collection and use of personal information from and about children on the Internet
15 USC 6503	Children's Online Privacy Protection Act - Safe harbors
15 USC 6504	Children's Online Privacy Protection Act - Actions by states
15 USC 6505	Children's Online Privacy Protection Act - Administration and Applicability