

## **STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

### **Introduction**

This Technology Acceptable Use Policy for the Winchester Public Schools (WPS) is enacted by the School Committee to provide the parents, students, and staff of the Winchester School Community with a statement of purpose and explanation of the use of technology within the Winchester learning community. This policy is reinforced by practice, acceptable use standards and is required to be read before accessing the technology devices, digital resources, and network infrastructure of the Winchester Public Schools. Students and parents/ guardians as well as all staff members of WPS must also read and sign the accompanying Statement of Responsibilities.

### **Purpose**

The Winchester Public Schools encourages the use of information technology to assist staff and students with academic success, preparation for the workplace, and lifelong learning. The Winchester Public Schools provides access to a wide range of information technology to support teaching and learning, and communicating and collaborating with others. Information technology will be used to increase communication, enhance student engagement, and assist staff and students in acquiring new skills. The technology devices, digital resources, and network infrastructure will also be utilized to provide relevant school information to a global community.

### **Implementation of this Policy**

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee(s), shall develop and implement administrative regulations, procedures, terms and conditions for use and user agreements consistent with the purposes and mission of the Winchester Public Schools as well as with applicable laws and this policy.

### **Definitions**

“Technology devices, digital resources, and network infrastructure” is defined as the Winchester Public Schools network, the Internet, Google Apps for Education, email, hardware, software, printers, peripheral devices, individual computer devices, and web enabled devices.

“Information technology” is defined as Internet access, blogging, podcasting, email, published and non published documents, and various forms of multimedia technology.

“Educational use” is defined as a use that supports communication, research, and learning.

“Devices” refer to district owned/leased, staff owned devices, and student owned devices.

### **Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**

Congress enacted the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §6501, et seq. (COPPA) in 1998. COPPA required the Federal Trade Commission to issue and enforce regulations concerning children’s on-line privacy. The Commission’s original COPPA Rule became effective on April 21, 2000. The Commission issued an amended Rule on December 19, 2012 that became effective on July 1, 2013.

Winchester Public Schools works diligently to comply with COPPA requirements. Winchester Public Schools does not collect student personal information or transmit such information directly to online entities for the purpose of creating web based accounts. In cases of web based account creation, Winchester Public Schools will use an internal school district identification number to represent each student user.

## **Technology Related Services Provided by the Winchester Public Schools**

### What are Google Apps for Education?

Winchester Public Schools provides staff and students with a Google Apps for Education account. Google Apps is a free web based suite of programs provided by Google for schools to use. All staff and students in Winchester Public Schools have access to Google Apps for Education. Google Apps includes such programs as Google Drive, Google Calendar, and Google Gmail.

All of the Google Apps services can be accessed from anywhere you have an Internet connection (school, home, smart phone, etc.) This reduces and replaces the need for flash drives and/or external data drives. Since Google Apps is all online, it is the same everywhere you use it. There is no issue with having one version of a program at home and a different version at school. Google Apps allows users to easily share documents and files with teachers and other students, so users can turn in assignments electronically and collaborate on projects with classmates.

### **WPS Student Google Account Setup**

WPS student accounts are created using only student local identification numbers and year of graduation. The student's username is his or her local student ID such as 123456

### Gmail

Gmail is the powerful Email program that comes with Google Apps for Education. With Gmail users can communicate with staff and students within the Winchester Public Schools domain.

### Google Calendar

Google Calendar allows users to maintain multiple calendars for all needs. Users can keep calendars private, or they can share them with others determined by the user. Users can also invite people to specific events on your calendar.

### Google Drive

Google Drive gives all users unlimited cloud storage space for most file formats. Google Drive can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection. Google Drive allows users to access and share files from any device that has Internet connectivity.

### **Google Drive includes, but is not limited to, the following programs:**

Google Docs word processor similar to Microsoft Word

Google Slides multimedia presentation tool similar to Microsoft PowerPoint

Google Sheets spreadsheet program similar to Microsoft Excel

Google Forms survey/data collection tool for creating forms and collecting data from an audience

Google Drawings simple graphic design program

### **Uses for Student Gmail**

Email can be a powerful communication tool for students to increase communication and collaboration. Students are encouraged to check their email regularly. Teachers may send email to middle and high school students to communicate reminders, course content, pose questions related to class work, and such. Students may send email to their teachers with questions or comments regarding class. Students may send email to other students to collaborate on group projects and assist with school classes.

### **Student Gmail Permissions**

Winchester Public Schools' Gmail system controls who email messages can be sent to and who they can be received from. WPS Students cannot send email to parent accounts or anyone outside of the Winchester Public Schools domain. All WPS students cannot receive email from outside of the domain. Therefore, students should not use their WPS email for setting up accounts that need to be verified via email or receive notices via email (unless directed by faculty).

## **Student Emails to Staff**

Students are encouraged to email staff concerning school related content and questions. However, there will be no requirement or expectation for staff to answer student email outside of their regular work day, although they certainly may if they choose. For example, an unanswered email to a teacher would not excuse a student from turning in an assignment.

## **General Email and Online Chat Guidelines**

Below is a general summary of guidelines related to email and any form of online chat or instant messages:

- Email and online chat are to be used for school related communication.
- Do not send harassing email or instant messages or content.
- Do not send offensive email or instant messages or content.
- Do not send spam email or instant messages or content.
- Do not send email or instant messages containing a virus or other malicious content.
- Do not send or read email or instant messages at inappropriate times, such as during class instruction.
- Do not send email or instant messages to share test answers or promote cheating in any way.
- Do not use the account of another person.

## **Content Filtering**

The Winchester Public Schools uses software designed to block access to certain sites and filter content as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §254 (CIPA). Winchester Public Schools is aware that not all inappropriate information can be filtered and the district will make an effort to correct any known gaps in the filtering of information without unduly inhibiting the educational use of age appropriate content by staff and students. Users will inform teachers or administrators of any inadvertent access to inappropriate material, in order that there is appropriate modification of the filtering profile. Winchester Public Schools educates students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking Web sites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response. WPS provides these educational opportunities as part of the Winchester Public Schools K12 Information and Digital Literacy Goals.

## **Monitoring**

The Winchester Public Schools monitors the use of the school department's network to protect the integrity and optimal operation of all computer and system networks. There is no expectation of privacy related to information stored and transmitted over the Winchester Public Schools network. The information on the network in general files and email is not private and is subject to review by the network manager at the request of the Winchester Public Schools administration to substantiate inappropriate activity and to comply with requests of law enforcement agencies as part of their investigations.

The Winchester Public Schools will cooperate with copyright protection agencies investigating copyright infringement by users of the computer systems and network of the Winchester Public Schools.

Technicians and computer system administrators maintain full access rights to all storage devices, and may need to access/manage such storage devices as part of their duties.

Routine maintenance and monitoring of the system may lead to discovery that a user has or is violating the Winchester Public Schools Technology Acceptable Use Policy, other school committee policies, state laws, or federal laws.

Search of particular files of a user shall be conducted if there is a reasonable suspicion that a user has violated the law or Winchester School Committee Policies. The investigation will be reasonable and in the context of the nature of the alleged policy violation.

Email that is sent within the WPS district is monitored and filtered based upon content. Rules/filters are set up to monitor student email for profanity, harassment, and other inappropriate content. Student email that is

identified as inappropriate will be reviewed by the school administration.

### **User Access and Explanation of Guideline**

Access to information technology through the Winchester Public Schools is a privilege, not a right. Students, parents, and staff shall be required to read the WPS Technology Acceptable Use Policy and sign and return the Statement of Responsibilities.

The Winchester Public School Acceptable Use Policy shall govern all use of technology devices, digital resources, and network infrastructure. Student use of technology resources, digital resources, web enabled devices, and network infrastructure will be governed by the Winchester School committee disciplinary policies as outlined in the policy manual of the district and the student's school handbook.

Because information technology is constantly changing, not all circumstances can be anticipated or addressed in this policy. All users are expected to understand and comply with both the "letter" and the "spirit" of this policy and show good judgment in their use of these resources.

The Winchester Public Schools provides students access to its technology devices, digital resources, and network infrastructure, along with information technology for educational use. If a student has doubts regarding whether a resource has educational merit, he/she should ask a staff member.

### **Scope of Technology Policies**

Policies, guidelines and rules refer to all computing devices including but not limited to computers, mobile web enabled devices, iPads, MP3 players, portable memory storage devices, calculators with interfacing capability, cell phones or ECDs (electronic communication devices), digital cameras, etc., as well as technology infrastructure, associated peripheral devices and/or software.

Policies, guidelines, and rules refer to any computing or telecommunication devices owned by, leased by, in the possession of, or being used by students and/or staff that are operated on the grounds of any district facility or connected to any equipment at any district facility by means of web connection, direct connection, telephone line or other common carrier or any type of connection including both hardwired, fiber, infrared and/or wireless.

This Technology Acceptable Use Policy also applies to any online service provided directly or indirectly by the district for student use, including but not limited to: Google Apps for Education accounts, Email, Calendar, and the student management systems.

### **Expectation of Privacy**

At any time and without prior notice, the WPS reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store any and all usage of technology devices, digital resources, and network infrastructure, along with information technology as well as any information sent or received in connection with this usage. Staff and students should not have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

### **Consequences for Violation of Technology Policies**

Use of the computer network and Internet is an integral part of research and class work, but abuse of this technology can result in loss of privileges. Students who use technology devices, digital resources, and network infrastructure, along with information technology inappropriately may lose their access privileges and may face additional disciplinary or legal action.

The length of time for loss of privileges will be determined by building administrators and/or other staff members. If the user is guilty of multiple violations, privileges can be removed for one year or more.

### **Unacceptable Uses of Technology Resources**

Inappropriate technology use includes but is not limited to the following:

Interfering with the normal functioning of devices, computer systems, or computer networks.

Damaging or theft of devices, computer systems, or computer networks. Accessing, modifying, or deleting files/data that do not belong to you. Sending or publishing offensive or harassing messages and content.

Accessing dangerous information that, if acted upon, could cause damage or danger to others.

Giving your username or password to any other student, or using the username or password of someone else to access any part of the system. Sharing and/or distribution of passwords or using another student or faculty member's password. Intentional viewing, downloading or distribution of inappropriate and/or offensive materials. Gaining unauthorized access to computer and or telecommunications networks and resources.

Viewing, transmitting or downloading pornographic, obscene, vulgar and/or indecent materials. Using obscene language, harassing, insulting or bullying others, posting of private or personal information about another person, spamming of the school email system, violating any federal or state law, local regulation or school committee policy.

Violating copyright laws and/or the district policy on plagiarism. Copying software or applications from Winchester Public School devices through any electronic means unless the particular licensing agreement in place for the software allows user distribution.

Intentionally wasting limited network or bandwidth resources. Destructions/vandalism of system software, applications, files or other network resources. Employing the network for commercial or political purposes. Using the network / Internet to buy or sell products.

"Hacking" and other illegal activities in attempt to gain unauthorized access to restricted files, other devices or computer systems. Uploading any harmful form of programming, bypassing filters; installing any type of server, aliasing / spoofing, peertopeer networking or remote control software.

Possession of and/or distribution of any of software tools designed to facilitate any of the above actions will also be considered an offense.

Saving inappropriate files to any part of the system, including but not limited to:

- Music files
- Movies
- Video games of all types
- Saving offensive images or files
- Programs which can be used for malicious purposes
- Any files for which you do not have a legal license
- Any file which is not needed for school purposes or a class assignment.

Uses that contribute to the violation of any other student conduct code including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, hazing or harassment, theft, falsification of records, possession of banned substances/items, etc.

NOTE: If you need a file for a class project that you think may be considered inappropriate, then you need to have teacher and school administration permission prior to the class project.

**Due Process**

The Winchester Public Schools will apply progressive discipline for violations of the district policy and signed Acceptable Use Agreement Form which may include revocation of the privilege of a user's access to technology devices, digital resources, and network infrastructure, along with information technology. Other appropriate disciplinary or legal action may be undertaken by the Winchester Public Schools administration. The nature of the investigation will be reasonable, and for staff, will reflect the contract language for each bargaining unit.

### **Winchester Public Schools Limitations of Liability**

The Winchester Public Schools makes no warranties of any kind, implied or expressed, that the services and functions provided through the Winchester Public Schools technology devices, digital resources and network infrastructure, along with information technology will be error free or without defect. The Winchester Public Schools will not be responsible for damages users may suffer, including but not limited to loss of data or interruption of service.

The Winchester Public Schools, along with any persons or organizations associated with the school department internet connectivity, will not be liable for the actions of anyone connecting to the internet through the school network infrastructure. All users shall assume full liability, legal, financial or otherwise for their actions while connected to the internet.

The Winchester Public Schools assumes no responsibility for any information or materials transferred or accessed from the internet.

Parents/Guardians should read this WPS Technology Acceptable Use Policy. Parents/guardians should discuss the technology use responsibilities with their children. Questions and concerns can be forwarded to the Winchester Public Schools and appropriate offices.

Parents and guardians agree to accept financial responsibility for any expenses or damages incurred as a result their student's inappropriate or illegal activities on the Winchester Public Schools network. Parents and guardians agree to reimburse Winchester Public Schools for any expenses or damages incurred in the use of district owned devices such as iPads in 1:1 school deployments. Parents and guardians will have access to optional third party insurance carriers.

### **Modification**

The Winchester School Committee reserves the right to modify or change this policy and related implementation procedures at any time.

SOURCE: WINCHESTER

LEGAL REFS: 47 USC § 254

CROSS REFS: IJND, Access to Electronic Media

*Winchester Public Schools would like to thank Burlington Public Schools for sharing their Acceptable Use Policy, adopted by Burlington School Committee August 20, 2013*

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**Student Expectations**

I have read, understand and will follow this Acceptable Use Policy. If I break this agreement, the consequences could include suspension of computer privileges and/or disciplinary action. I also understand the school network and email accounts are owned by Winchester Public Schools and that Winchester Public Schools has the right to access any of the information used through the mediums provided through the school at any time.

**Parent/Guardian Acceptable Use Signature**

Parent collaboration and consent working together is a crucial focus of Winchester Public Schools. Through our technology integration, we want to work with parents so they understand the different initiatives that are taking place at school, whether they are using technology or not. We encourage you to have your children guide you through their work so you will see their work as it develops.

As parents, students and teachers working together, we become a strong learning community, therefore, creating more opportunities for our students to become successful. As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Winchester Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that technology is provided for educational purposes in keeping with the academic goals of Winchester Public Schools, and that student use for any other purpose is inappropriate. I recognize it is impossible for the school to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold the school responsible for materials acquired on the school network. I understand that children’s computer activities at home should be supervised as they can affect the academic environment at school.

I understand and will support my student in adhering to this Acceptable Use Policy. I am aware that if my child breaches this agreement, the consequences could include suspension of computer privileges and/or disciplinary action. I also understand the school network and email accounts are owned by Winchester Public Schools and that Winchester Public Schools has the right to access any of the information used through the mediums provided through the school at any time. I hereby give permission for my child to use technology resources in Winchester Public Schools.

**Parent/Guardian Student Images for Educational Purposes**

Winchester Public Schools attempts to provide students with the best educational practices and resources. Winchester schools will also attempt to recognize student achievement and success by publishing student names and/or pictures in the newspaper, school based web pages or blogs, school newsletters, and video/cable access television. The information, which may be released for publication, includes only the student’s name, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors, and awards. Photographs and video recordings may also be taken during school activities for use on Winchester Public Schools web pages, blogs, newsletters, yearbooks, and newspaper articles. Winchester Public Schools owns the photographs and video recordings and all rights to them.

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Parent or Guardian Name (please print)

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Student Name (please print)

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Parent or Guardian Signature

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Student Signature

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Date

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Date

I have read and understand the WPS Technology AUP.

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