

6446 **STUDENT ~~ACCEPTABLE~~ RESPONSIBLE USE OF ~~POLICY~~**
~~ELECTRONIC RESOURCES~~ 6446

It is a Wake County Public School System objective to make appropriate ~~electronic information resource~~technology available to students to assist in furthering educational goals and to provide for efficient school-related communication. This policy governs the use of Wake County Public School System ~~electronic information resource~~technology and defines students' proper conduct and responsibilities while using Wake County Public School System electronic information resources. ~~Electronic information resources are~~Technology is defined as all Wake County Public School System computer equipment, including any desktop or laptop computers, tablets, iPads or other hardware owned or leased by the school system; the Wake County Public School System computer network; e-mail accounts; any computer software licensed to the Wake County Public School System; all approved Internet accessible applications and tools; and stored data. Because electronic information resources are an integral part of the educational curriculum all students must comply with this policy when using any WCPSS technology or when using personal technology devices on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or on the WCPSS network.

Internet access provides a wide range of resources to students beyond the customary retrieval or viewing of information. Teacher directed activities may involve interactive services or tools which allow greater student involvement through external collaboration and communications.

Families are warned that some sites or pages accessible via the Internet contain material that is offensive, illegal, sexually explicit and discriminatory. In accordance with federal law, the Wake County Public School System uses appropriate measures, including the use of advanced software for Internet content filtering and has procedures in place to further block accessibility to language and visual depictions that are obscene, lewd, pornographic, or harmful to minors, if necessary. Although it is the intent of the Wake County Public School System that ~~school system electronic information resource~~technology be used only to pursue educational goals and objectives, filters may not block all offensive material and/or students may find ways to access inappropriate materials.

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All student use of technology may involve access to the internet. The Wake County Public School System believes that the benefits to students from access to the Internet,

in the form of information resources and opportunities for communication and collaboration, exceed any disadvantages; but ultimately, parents and legal guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the behaviors that their child should follow when using ~~media and information~~technology resources. To that end, the Wake County Board of Education supports and respects each family' right to decide whether or not to deny their child's Internet access. ~~Students are granted access to the Internet automatically. However, Internet access is considered a privilege and may be revoked at any time by school administration. Parents or legal guardians may deny access to their child at any time through completion of a Parental Request to Deny Access Form. Students must return a signed Parental Permission for Technology Use form in order to access WCPSS technology resources.~~

Technology access may be revoked at any time by school administration.

- A. School administrators and staff are responsible for enforcing this policy for any and all students in the school in which they work. Technology Services personnel are responsible for operating and monitoring of Internet content filtering software.

Administrators and staff must supervise student use of electronic information resources in a manner that is appropriate to the student's² age and the circumstances of use.

- B. Appropriate Use: All students are expected to exercise good judgment, use ~~the computer technology resources~~ in an appropriate manner and adhere to this policy and all applicable laws and regulations.

Student use of ~~the equipment~~technology is expected to be related to the Wake County Public School System' educational goals and objectives. The Board recognizes, however, that some personal use is inevitable, and that incidental and occasional personal use that is infrequent or brief in duration is permitted so long as it occurs on personal time, does not interfere with Wake County Public School System business or the educational environment, and is not otherwise prohibited by Wake County Public School policy or procedures.

Use of Software Licensed to the Wake County Public School System ~~Software: Wake County Public School System s~~Software is licensed to the Wake County Public School System by a large number of vendors and may have specific license restrictions regarding copying or using a particular program. Users must obtain permission from the Wake County Public School System prior to copying or loading Wake County Public School System software onto any computer, whether the computer is privately owned or is a Wake County Public School System computer.

~~The use of non-Wake County Public School System software on any WCPSS computers (including laptops, desktops, and the network) is discouraged. Prior to loading non-Wake County Public School System~~Students may not install or load any software, applications, browser plug-ins, etc. onto Wake County Public School System ~~computers~~ technology resources (including laptops, desktops, tablets, and network), a student user must receive express permission from the WCPSS chief technology officer or designee. The use of such software will be subject to any restrictions imposed by the chief technology officer or designee. All software must be legally licensed by the user or the WCPSS prior to loading onto Wake County Public School System equipment. The unauthorized use of and/or copying of software is illegal.

- C. Prohibited Uses: Individual users of the Internet are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The following are specifically not permitted. Wake County Public School System ~~electronic information resources~~technology may not be used for the following purposes:

Commercial Use: Using Wake County Public School System ~~computers~~ technology resources for personal or private gain, personal business, or commercial advantage is prohibited.

Political Use: Using Wake County Public School System ~~computers~~ technology resources to advocate, directly or indirectly, for or against legislation, a school bond referendum and/or the selection of a school board member is prohibited.

Illegal or Inappropriate Use: Using Wake County Public School System ~~computers~~ technology resources for illegal, harassing, vandalizing, or inappropriate purposes, or in support of such activities is prohibited.

Illegal activities are any violations of federal, state, or local laws and include, but are not limited to, copyright infringement and/or illegal file sharing; posting or publishing false or defamatory information about a person or organization; committing fraud; cyberstalking; cyberharassment; bullying; threatening another person; or intentionally engaging in communications for the purpose of abusing, annoying, threatening, terrifying, harassing, or embarrassing another person.

Harassment ~~or bullying includes, but is not limited to, slurs, comments, jokes, innuendoes, unwelcome compliments, cartoons, visual depictions, pranks, or verbal conduct relating to an individual that (1) have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment; (2) have the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or school performance, or (3) interfere with school operations~~ is any repeated, systematic pattern of gestures or written, electronic, or verbal communications, or any physical act or

any threatening communication that (1) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or (2) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.

Vandalism is any attempt to harm or destroy the operating system, hardware, application software, or data.

Inappropriate use is any violation of other provisions of this policy and includes, but is not limited to, using another person's s ID or password; giving out one's s user ID or password; plagiarizing; accessing, producing, storing, posting, sending, displaying, or viewing inappropriate or offensive material, including pornographic, obscene, discriminatory, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually suggestive language or images, or images of exposed private body parts; and accessing material advocating illegal acts or violence, including hate literature. Students are prohibited from taking pictures or videos with any device unless directed by a teacher.

The Wake County Public School System network may not be used for downloading entertainment software, applications or other files not related to the mission and objectives of Wake County Public School System for use on Wake County Public School System's s network or computers or transfer to a user's home computer or other personal computer. This prohibition pertains to all freeware, shareware, copyrighted commercial and non-commercial software, and all other forms of software downloads, applications, plug-ins and files not directly related to the instructional and administrative purposes of the Wake County Public School System.

Unauthorized Use: Wake County Public School System ~~computers-technology~~ may only be used by Wake County Public School System staff and students, and others expressly authorized by the Wake County Public School System ~~to use the equipment.~~

Disruptive Use: Wake County Public School System ~~computers-technology~~ may not be used to interfere with or disrupt other users, services, or equipment. For example, disruptions include, but are not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising ('spam'), propagation of computer viruses, distribution of large quantities of information that may overwhelm the system (i.e. chain letters, network games, or broadcasting messages), and any unauthorized access to or destruction of Wake County Public School System computers or other resources accessible through the Wake County Public School System' computer network

(~~cracking~~ or ~~hacking~~). Disruptive use may also be considered inappropriate and/or illegal.

The following are considered disruptions and are also prohibited: posting personal or private information about the user or other people on the Internet; arranging or agreeing to meet with someone the user has met on-line for purposes other than official school business; attempting to gain unauthorized access to the WCPSS network, computers, or systems; installing, downloading, storing, or running software or applications used for hacking; attempting to bypass any WCPSS security control; posting information that could be disruptive, cause damage, or endanger students or staff; and accessing online communications tools such as skype, forums, hangouts or chat-rooms unless for a valid educational purpose or official school and/or Wake County Public School System business.

- D. This policy is applicable to all student users of Wake County Public School System computers and refers to all ~~electronic information resource~~technology whether individually controlled, shared, stand alone, or networked. Disciplinary action, if any, for students or other users shall be consistent with the Wake County Public School System's standard policies and practices, including the Code of Student Conduct. Violations may constitute cause for revocation of access privileges, suspension of access to Wake County Public School System ~~computer~~technology, other disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. Specific disciplinary measures will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- E. Wake County Public School System electronic information resources, the Internet, and use of e-mail are not inherently secure or private. Students shall have no expectation of privacy while using Wake County Public School System ~~electronic information resource~~technology, including access to the Wake County Public School System network. The Wake County Public School System reserves the right to search data or e-mail stored on all school-owned or ~~leased~~ computers, tablets or other ~~electronic information~~technology resources at any time for any reason. The Wake County Public School System reserves the right to monitor students' ~~use~~ of Wake County Public School System ~~electronic information resource~~technology and to take appropriate disciplinary action based on use that is in violation of this policy. The Wake County Public School System reserves the right to disclose any electronic message or data to law enforcement officials, and under some circumstances, may be required to disclose information to law enforcement officials or other third parties, for example, in response to a subpoena or court order.

- F. Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Students are responsible for reporting information security violations to appropriate personnel. Students should not demonstrate suspected security violations to other users. Attempts to log onto any system with escalated privileges may result in cancellation of user privileges and may result in additional disciplinary action. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access.
- G. Users of Wake County Public School System ~~computers~~ technology are expected to respect the Wake County Public School System' property and be responsible in using the equipment. Users are to follow any Wake County Public School System instructions regarding maintenance or care of the equipment. Users may be held responsible for any damage caused by intentional or negligent acts in caring for Wake County Public School System computers while under their control.
- H. The Wake County Public School System makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the service it is providing. The Wake County Public School System will not be responsible for any damages suffered by users, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-delivery, service interruptions, or any other cause. The Wake County Public School System will not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs, or other obligations arising from the unauthorized use of Wake County Public School System' electronic information resources. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's risk. The Wake County Public School System specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its service. Users are responsible for any losses sustained by the Wake County Public School System resulting from the user' intentional misuse of the Wake County Public School System' electronic information resources.

Legal Reference: 15 U.S.C. § 6501 et seq.; 16 C.F.R. Part 312; 47 U.S.C. § 254; 18 U.S.C. § 2510 et seq.; 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.; 20 U.S.C. § 6777; 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; G.S. 14-196.3; G.S. 15A-286 to ?287; G.S. 115C-47(33); G.S. 115C-391; G.S. 115C-398; G.S. 115C-401.1; G.S. 115C-402; G.S. 115C-523

Adopted: December 18, 1995

Revised: September 22, 1998

Revised: March 19, 2002

Revised: June 15, 2004

Revised: June 3, 2008

Revised: April 6, 2010 (effective July 1, 2010)

Revised: