

POLICY**P 6141.321****GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GROTON, CONNECTICUT****Students****Appropriate Use of Technology Policy**

Groton Public Schools (GPS) provides its students and staff access to a multitude of technology resources with the understanding that these resources provide opportunities to enhance learning and improve communication within our community and with the global community. The advantages of having access to these resources are far greater than the potential difficulties they may bring. However, with the privilege of access comes personal responsibility to use the resources appropriately.

The district's policies are intended to promote the most effective, safe, productive, instructionally sound and honest uses of networked information and communication tools. Students' use of technology at school shall be for educational purposes only. The district makes a good faith effort to protect its students from exposure to Internet materials that are harmful or explicit by maintaining a system of Internet content filtering devices and software controls that meet federal standards established in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The district also educates students and staff on responsible use of technology including Internet resources and communication tools.

Digital Citizenship

As it supports students to develop the citizenship skills necessary to function in society, Groton Public Schools understands its responsibility to help students develop digital citizenship skills, as the Internet and electronic communication has become ubiquitous in the 21st century. Digital citizenship skills enable students to use information and technology in safe, legal, and responsible ways. Administrators, teachers, and staff are expected to model good digital citizenship skills for students in the same manner they model all expected behaviors. Students will receive instruction on the concepts and skills involved in digital citizenship.

A responsible digital citizen is one who:

Respects One's Self:

- Users show respect for themselves by understanding online behavior is a reflection and representation of oneself. They select online names that are appropriate, consider the information and images posted online as public expressions of themselves, and do not post personal information.

Respects Others:

- Users show respect for others online. They refrain from using technology to bully, tease, insult, inflame, harass or discriminate and in general, disrespect others. They do not visit sites that are degrading, pornographic, racist or otherwise inappropriate in the school setting. They do not violate others' access to material or others' files, online spaces, or material and never borrow, use or misappropriate another's identity, online password/or another's work product.

Protects One's Self:

- Users protect themselves by not posting any information including images that may put them at risk. They do not post personal details or contact information or otherwise share private information. They report any attacks or inappropriate behavior directed at them or other abuse. They protect passwords, accounts and resources.

Protects Others:

- Users protect others online by not putting others at risk and taking care to not offend others. They report abuse and do not create, forward or disseminate in any manner inappropriate materials, images or communications. Users do not visit degrading, pornographic, racist or other inappropriate sites.

Respects Intellectual Property:

- Users understand online resources are the creation of others. They request permission to use resources as necessary, suitably cite any and all use of websites, books, media, etc. and abide by fair use rules.

Protects Intellectual Property:

- Users adhere to copyright laws and agreements. They seek permission to use the software and media others produce. They act with integrity when dealing with licensed music, software and other media.

Regulations

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent or his designee to develop accompanying regulations to provide specific guidance for students in their use of district technology and personal technology including the use of social media both in and outside of school as well as guidance for staff in their use of technology with students. This guidance shall address staff responsibilities to educate students about appropriate and safe online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms as well as cyberbullying awareness and response.

Consequences for Violation

The Superintendent will set forth in the regulations consequences for violation of this policy, its regulations and other unacceptable use of technology. Such consequences may include revocation of privileges, disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion from school, and/or legal action. The Groton Board of Education reserves the right to cooperate with law enforcement officers in investigations related to illegal activities conducted by students in their use of technology.

Acknowledgement

Students and their parents are required to sign user agreement/acknowledgment forms in order for any student to access and/or use district technology. Written parental permission is required for permissible student use of personal technology at school through district networks. In signing the acknowledgement form, students and parents acknowledge receipt of the Board's Appropriate Use Policy and its regulations and agree to abide by all their terms and conditions.

Cross References:

P1550 Professional Code of Ethics
 P 5145.12 Search and Seizure
 P 5131.81 Use of Electronic Communication Devices
 P5131.913 Bullying/cyberbullying
 P5145.2 Freedom of Speech/Expression

Legal References:

U.S. Constitution, Amend. I
 Conn. Constitution, Article I, Sections 3, 4, 14
 Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-201-1-241 inclusive. Freedom of Information
 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d Employers engaged in electronic monitoring required to give prior notice to employees. Exceptions. Civil penalty.
 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-51q
 Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b Harassment in the first degree
 Conn. Gen. State §53a-183 Harassment in the second degree
 Conn. Gen. State §53a-196g Possessing child pornography: affirmative defenses
 Conn. Gen. State §§53a-250 et seq. re: computer related offenses
 28 U.S.C. 2510 through 2520, Electronic Communication Privacy Act
 20 U.S. C.254 Children's Internet Protection Act
 20 U.S. C. 6751-6777 Enhancing Education through Technology Act
 No Child Left Behind Act, Title II, Part D 6777 Internet Safety
 47 U.S.C. 254 Universal service discounts (E-rate)
 47 C.F.R. Section 54.520(c)(1)(i) Internet safety policy and Protecting children in the 21st Century Act §215; 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B)

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