

SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND-GRANVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CODE: EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY

Category: INSTRUCTION

Adopted: 6/7/05

File No.: IJNDB

Revised: 5/21/2019

Purpose

The School Committee recognizes the need for students to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the District provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets for using technology as a tool. Information and communication technology are an integrated part of our curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

Availability

The Superintendent or designee shall implement, monitor, and evaluate the District's system/network for instructional and administrative purposes.

All users shall acknowledge that they understand that using digital devices, whether personal or school owned, as well as the school District network is a privilege and when using them in accordance with School District guidelines users will retain that privilege.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative guidelines, regulations, procedures, and user agreements, consistent with law and policy, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Digital devices, software, and networks shall be used in school for educational purposes and activities.
- The District will comply with all relevant privacy laws relating to personal information that is disseminated using the District's system/network (including home/mobile phone numbers, mailing addresses, and passwords).
- Individuals will show respect for themselves and others when using technology including social media. (CROSS REF: IJNDD Policy on Social Media)
- Users shall give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work.
- Users shall report inappropriate use of technology immediately.
- The Network is the property of the STGRSD and its storage systems are therefore subject to inspection by the administration at any time. As such, users should be aware that routine maintenance and monitoring of the system may lead to discovery that the user has violated or is violating the STGRSD Empowered Digital Use District Policy, and/or the law. System users should not have an expectation of privacy to the contents of their personal files on the Network.

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- If there is suspicion that a user has violated the Empowered Digital Use District Policy or the law an individual search will be conducted. The nature of the investigation will be in the context of the nature of the alleged violation.

These procedures shall be reviewed annually by District administration together with students and teachers and shall provide a springboard for teaching and learning around topics such as Internet safety, digital citizenship, and ethical use of technology.

Parent/Guardian Notification

The STGRSD Empowered Digital Use Policy establishes expectations for appropriate behavior when using District technology. There is a wide range of material available on the Internet, some of which may not be in concert with the particular values of the families of students. It is not practically possible for the STGRSD to monitor and enforce a wide range of social values in student use of the Internet. Further, the District recognizes that parents/guardians bear primary responsibility for communicating their particular set of family values to their children. The District will encourage parents/guardians to specify to their children what material they believe is and is not acceptable for their children to access through the Network. The District will utilize an Empowered Digital Use Form to inform students about what type of materials and behaviors are acceptable and expected. STGRSD will also provide students with instruction about personal safety and well-being while using the Internet and technology through the Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science curriculum.

District Limitation of Liability

The STGRSD makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through its Network will be error free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damages users may suffer, including but not limited to loss of data, interruptions of service, or physical, psychological, or monetary damages. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The District will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations arising through the use of the system.

SOURCE: MASC

Adopted: August 2015

CROSS REF: IJNDD Policy on Social Media

Empowered Digital Use Form