

# *Hamilton City School District*

## **Acceptable Use Policy**

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Hamilton City School District is pleased to offer students, staff and guests access to computer technology, including access to the Internet, certain online services, and the Hamilton City School District information technology network. The district is dedicated to the access and support of appropriate technology which aids student academic achievement. The district envisions a learning environment where technology firmly supports instruction.

Hamilton City School Districts believes that the tremendous value of technology and the network as an educational resource far outweighs the potential risks. The District will leverage existing and emerging technology as a means to learn and thrive in the 21st Century and prepare students for success toward their goals in the competitive global, electronic age. The District feels that access to the tools and resources of a world-wide network and understanding when and how these tools are appropriately and effectively used are imperative in each student's education. However, if parents feel they do not want their child to have Internet access, then they will be responsible for informing their child's principal, in writing or email, before the end of the second week of school. Parents may revoke a child's internet access at any time by indicating their desire in writing or email to the building principal.

### **Defining Use**

The school's information technology resources, including email and Internet access, are provided for educational purposes. If you have any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is acceptable, consult with your immediate teacher, supervisor, or director to help decide if a use is appropriate. Adherence to the following policy is necessary for continued access to the school's technological resources:

**Users must** respect and protect the privacy of others by:

1. Using only assigned accounts.

2. Only viewing, using, or copying passwords, data, or networks to which they are authorized.
3. Refraining from distributing private information about others or themselves.

**Users must** respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources by:

1. Observing all district Internet filters and posted network security practices.
2. Reporting security risks or violations to a teacher or network administrator.
3. Not destroying or damaging data, networks, or other resources that do not belong to them, without clear permission of the owner.
4. Conserving, protecting, and sharing these resources with other users.
5. Notifying a staff member or administrator of computer or network malfunctions through the creation of a service request.

**Users must** respect and protect the intellectual property of others by.

1. Following copyright laws (not making illegal copies of music, games, or movies).
2. Citing sources when using others' work (not plagiarizing).

**Users must** respect and practice the principles of community by:

1. Communicating only in ways that are kind and respectful.
2. Reporting threatening or discomforting materials to a teacher or administrator.
3. Not intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that violates the school's code of conduct (such as messages/content that are pornographic, threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
4. Not intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that is illegal (such as obscenity, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works).
5. Not using the resources to further other acts that are criminal or violate the school's code of conduct.
6. Avoiding spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings.
7. Refraining from buying, selling, advertising, or otherwise conducting business, unless approved as a school project.

**Users may**, if in accord with the policy above:

1. Design and post web pages and other material from school resources.
2. Communicate electronically via tools such as email, chat, text, or video-conferencing (students require a teacher's permission).
3. Install or download software, if also in conformity with laws and licenses, (students must be under the supervision of a teacher).
4. Use the resources for any educational purpose.

### **Consequences for Violation.**

Violations of these rules may result in disciplinary action, including the loss of a user's privileges to use the school's information technology resources. Further discipline may be imposed in accordance with the Board's Code of Conduct up to and including suspension or expulsion depending on the degree and severity of the violation.

School district employees may face discipline for violations up to and including suspension or termination from employment with the district. Teaching employees who violate the Licensure Code of Professional Conduct for Ohio Educators will be reported and may face additional action by the State Board of Education.

### **Supervision and Monitoring.**

The use of District owned information technology resources is not private. School and network administrators and their authorized employees monitor the use of information technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property. They may also use this information in disciplinary actions, and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement.

With respect to devices with internet access, the District will use measures that block and/or filter access to any visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.

The district reserves the right to determine which uses constitute acceptable use and to limit access to such uses. The district also reserves the right to limit the time of access and priorities among competing acceptable uses.

### **Disclaimer of Liability**

The district shall not be responsible for any material encountered on a computer network, including the Internet, which may be deemed objectionable to a user (or his/her parents, if a minor); for any inaccurate information disseminated over the network; for any hostile or injurious actions of third parties encountered through a computer network; for any charges incurred by the user of a computer or computer network without prior permission; or for any damage or loss incurred by a user or any subsequent party by the use of files or software obtained over a computer network. Due to the nature of electronic communications and Ohio public records law, it is also impossible for the district to guarantee confidentiality of email sent and received over any computer network.

The district shall not warrant the functions of the system to meet any specific requirements the user may have, or that it would be error-free or uninterrupted; nor shall the district be liable for any direct or indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including damage to personal devices, lost data, information or time sustained in connection with the use, operation or inability to use the system.

### *Credit*

Portions of this AUP are modeled after an example provided by the US Department of Justice Computer Crime & Intellectual Property Section.