

TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The purpose of the Watertown School District's technology resources is to provide educational resources and communication tools for students and staff. These resources help to facilitate education and research consistent with the technology vision of the Watertown School District: "Learning is advanced with the integration of technology." User accounts are provided to students and staff of the school district and are bound by the following appropriate use policy. Activity on the Watertown School District network assumes agreement with the conditions of this policy.

Privileges

The use of technology resources must be for educational purposes consistent with the mission, goals, and objectives of the Watertown School District. The use of the Watertown School District's technology resources is a privilege, not a right. The user in whose name a system account and/or computer hardware is issued will be responsible at all times for its appropriate use.

Technology Service

The user is responsible for their ethical and educational use of technology resources. The Watertown School District does not guarantee that its technology resources will be uninterrupted or error-free; nor does it make any warranty as to the results to be obtained from use of the service or the accuracy or quality of the information obtained on or by the network. Access to the network is provided on an as-is basis without warranties of any kind. Neither the school district nor any of its agents or employees shall be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, or consequential damages arising out of the use of or inability to use the network or Internet.

Responsibility

In compliance with federal law, the school district shall make reasonable effort to restrict access to inappropriate materials and shall monitor the on-line activities of the user in the school environment. Electronic mail, network usage, and all stored files shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time to ensure appropriate use. The District cooperates fully with local, state or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to violations of computer crime laws.

Content Filtering

Software has been installed to filter Internet content accessed on district equipment. Due to the "open" nature of the Internet, no liability will be assumed by the Watertown School District or any district employee for the use or misuse of this system. It is the responsibility of each user to make good decisions as to what information is retrieved and what is done with that information. Any student or user under the age of eighteen agrees to make this policy known to his/her

parents or guardians and obtain their approval to use the network computer resources of the Watertown School District.

Email Etiquette

Each user of the school district's computers and networks are expected to abide by accepted rules of network etiquette. The user should maintain high integrity with regard to email content. Sending, accessing, uploading, downloading, creating, or distributing offensive, profane, threatening, pornographic, abusive, obscene, or sexually explicit materials is prohibited. School district e-mail is subject to inspection by school personnel. Contents of e-mail and network communications are governed by the South Dakota Open Records Act; proper authorities will be given access to their content.

Security

Security of the network is a high priority. The user will not violate the integrity of a network or computer system, change its performance or intentionally make it malfunction, or add or delete programs or information resources unless acting upon approved authorization from the System Administrator.

Hacking

Any malicious attempt to alter data, the configuration of a computer, or the files of another user (student or staff) without consent may be considered an act of vandalism and subject to disciplinary action. Note that instructors may need to access student materials for educational purposes.

The user is expected to comply with trademark and copyright laws and all license agreements. Violating copyright or other protected materials laws for print, audio and video components is prohibited.

Consequences

The user who violates this policy or signed technology acceptable use agreements is subject to consequences determined based on the severity of the violation. Non-compliance may result in referral to law enforcement authorities and possible long term suspension or recommended expulsion from school. The user may be responsible for any outside costs, fees, charges, or expenses incurred under the user's account.

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