



Policy Relating to Technology and Internet Safety

A. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to promote the use of technology to improve productivity, expand resources, and enhance communication at all levels of EastSide Charter School (“EastSide”) and to address internet safety issues.

This policy will guide the use of technology to fulfill the educational needs of EastSide students and the professional needs of EastSide staff.

B. Issue:

The expectation reflected in this policy is that technologies will be safely and appropriately used to meet the needs of students and staff.

This policy provides structured guidelines for the use of EastSide technology and must be applied in all instances of EastSide operation. All EastSide employees and students are expected to comply with this policy.

Failure to comply with this policy and administrative regulations governing use of EastSide’s technologies system may result in the suspension and/or revocation of access to the State’s technology systems, except with specific permission from EastSide (e.g., in connection with required computer based testing).

C. Policy:

The EastSide Charter School Board of Directors (“Board”), recognizing the evolving impact of technology on education for EastSide students and personnel, supports the safe and appropriate use of EastSide’s Wide Area Network (WAN), Intranet, and Internet as tools for instruction, research, communication, and data collection.

EastSide will comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act and other applicable laws by filtering, or relying on the State Department of Technology and Information to filter, internet access.

Access to Inappropriate Material and Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practicable, technology protection measures will:

1. prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
2. prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity;
3. prevent unauthorized access, hacking, online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)] and other applicable laws.

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Staff will choose resources on the internet that are appropriate for classroom instruction and/or research for the needs, maturity, and ability of their students. However, parents, students, and staff will understand that on a public network it is not possible to control all materials and will accept responsibility for complying with EastSide procedures and standards of safe and acceptable use.

Education, Supervision, and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all staff members to educate, supervise, and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying of any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the EastSide Technology Department. In addition, EastSide will provide age-appropriate education for students and staff who use EastSide's internet facilities. The staff professional development will help teachers make informed decisions regarding best practices for internet safety, as well as give them the tools necessary to share with students the importance of internet safety. Students will receive education both directly and indirectly from all EastSide staff. Their training will demonstrate to them what it means to use technology safely in the 21st Century. The topics covered will include, but are not limited to:

- EastSide acceptable use
- Student Internet Safety
- Dissemination of personal information
- Proper behavior and etiquette online, including Social Networking Appropriate Behavior while online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and
- Cyberbullying awareness and response

Instructional technology will be used primarily as a resource intended to provide students and teachers with an opportunity to explore issues of importance. Technologies shall fulfill students' and staff's need for visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic input and output of information. Students and staff will be trained to use technology by way of adequate resources and instructional sites. Opportunities will be explored for students and staff to view practical uses of current technologies.

Computing technologies alter the way information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred. Students and staff are allowed access to rich information resources through computing technology. The primary purpose of their use shall be for the advancement and promotion of learning, teaching, and EastSide operations.

Acceptable Use

Acceptable use of EastSide telecommunications systems is covered in the Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary action up to and including student expulsion may be the result of any violations.

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Staff violations will be addressed by administrative rule, and discipline shall be administered as provided in the staff personnel handbook. Users of technology owned or operated by EastSide shall not have an expectation of privacy in their use of such technology.

Establishment and maintenance of EastSide's technology infrastructure is authorized by the Board. It is required that provisions for the safeguarding and security of appropriate data on the network shall be incorporated in the system. No EastSide employee is permitted to use EastSide equipment, supplies, and services for personal gain.

D. Review and Reporting:

This policy shall be reviewed according to policy review guidelines established by the Board.

This policy shall be monitored by the Board and the Head of School, with support from the State's Office of Technology.

E. References:

Related policies: 5005 Data Management, 8023 Bullying Prevention

Related documents: Acceptable Use Policy for All EastSide Charter School Students; Delaware Department of Technology and Information Acceptable Use Policy; Student Code of Conduct

F. Laws/Relevant Agencies:

Delaware Department of Education

Delaware Department of Technology and Information

U.S. Children's Internet Protection Act of 1999

Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act

Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, 2008

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