

Board Policy IFBG: Acceptable Use

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 12/04/2014 | Last Revised Date: 05/18/2023 | Last Reviewed Date: 05/18/2023

The Bibb County Board of Education ("Board") believes that technology and its utilization enhances the quality and delivery of education and is an important part of preparing students for a global economy. The use of school equipment, including computer hardware, software, local and wide area networks, and Internet access are also used to support the vision, mission, and goals of the Bibb County School District ("District").

Due to the complex nature of these systems and the magnitude of information available via the Internet, policy and regulations regarding acceptable use are warranted in order to serve the educational needs of students.

Acceptable Use

Technology services and resources will be made available to all District schools with the following goals in mind:

- To promote educational excellence for the advancement of teaching and learning by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication among community, state, national, and global learning environments.
- To support research and education by providing access to relevant resources. and opportunities, promoting critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication.
- To stimulate personal growth in information-gathering techniques, to significantly expand each user's knowledge base, and to promote intellectual inquiry and awareness of global diversity through communication and exploration.
- To assist students in developing the intellectual skills needed to discern the validity of media sources.

The District shall implement technology protection measures (i.e., an internet filtering mechanism) to block or filter, to the extent practicable, student and adult Internet access to material that is obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors and/or includes child pornography, as those terms are defined in Regulation IFBG-R(1) and applicable law. The District administration may record or monitor the Internet activities of staff and students to address inappropriate use of the Internet as provided by law. This applies to any devices on the District's network and any school equipment from any location. Additionally, in the discretion of the Superintendent or his or her designee, such technology protection measures may be configured to preserve bandwidth and/or protect against access to other inappropriate content. The Superintendent or his or her designee may only disable the technology protection measures, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose for adult use.

No school equipment shall be used for accessing, sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading obscene material, child pornography, or material that is harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in IFBG-R(1) and applicable law. Any student, District employee, or any person who is not a student or District employee, who intentionally violates Policy IFBG and/or Regulation IFBG-R(1), whether or not such student, employee, or person was, at the time of such violation, on school property, on a school bus or other school vehicle, at a school related function, or elsewhere, shall be subject to the consequences, including disciplinary measures, as set out in IFBG-R(1).

The Superintendent or his or her designee is authorized and directed to implement regulations or procedures to monitor the Internet activities on school equipment, address complaints regarding possible violations of this Policy and Regulation IFBG-R(1), provide for expedited review and resolution of a claim that the application of this Policy and Regulation IFBG-R(1) is denying a student or District employee access to material that is not within the prohibitions of this Policy and Regulation IFBG-R(1), and educate students about appropriate use of technology and responsible digital citizenship. Such educational programming will specifically address issues related to Internet safety, inappropriate material, cyberbullying and Internet interactions.

The Superintendent or his or her designee is further authorized and directed to establish regulations or guidelines establishing standards for the acceptable use of School District technology resources, including penalties and disciplinary action for violations of those standards.

