



Walker County School System Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

Purpose and Philosophy

The Walker County Board of Education is committed to preparing students for success in college, career, and life by integrating technology meaningfully and responsibly into the learning process. We believe that access to modern digital tools, applications, and internet-connected systems can enhance teaching, improve student outcomes, and promote lifelong learning.

The use of district-provided technology resources is a privilege, not a right, and must support the instructional goals and mission of the school system. All users are expected to use technology safely, ethically, and responsibly.

Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all students, staff, and guests who access or use the Walker County School System's digital resources, including:

- Computers, tablets, and other hardware
- Software and cloud-based applications
- Internal and external networks (wired and wireless)
- Internet access through district infrastructure
- Personally owned devices used on school grounds (BYOD)

Compliance with Federal Law

The Walker County School System complies with the **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)** and maintains:

1. A **technology protection measure** (internet filtering software) on all district devices that access the internet.
2. Ongoing **monitoring and supervision** of online activity by staff and administrators to protect students from:
 - Inappropriate online content

1. Data Privacy and Student Information Protection

- The district will evaluate and approve all educational tools and third-party apps to ensure compliance with **FERPA, COPPA, and state data privacy laws**.
- Staff may not use non-approved apps or platforms that collect, store, or share student data without district consent.

2. Use of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

- AI tools must only be used with teacher approval and for academic purposes.
- Students and staff must disclose AI-assisted work and understand what constitutes academic dishonesty when using generative tools.
- AI must not be used to fabricate academic content, impersonate individuals, or generate harmful or deceptive material.

3. Digital Accessibility for all Learners

- Technology must support **accessibility standards** (e.g., screen readers, captions, font adjustments) to meet the needs of students with disabilities, in line with **Section 504 and IDEA**.
- Staff must ensure that digital materials used in instruction are accessible to all learners.
- The district is committed to closing the digital divide by providing devices and connectivity support as needed.

4. Digital Wellbeing and Healthy Use Guidelines

- Teachers should encourage balanced use of technology and integrate screen breaks into classroom routines.
- Students and staff are encouraged to follow digital wellness practices, including limiting screen time, managing notifications, and promoting offline social interaction.
- The district may monitor technology use patterns to support student wellbeing and identify harmful or excessive usage.

5. Cloud Storage and File Management

- All files created for schoolwork must be saved to district-approved cloud storage systems.
- Users must organize and maintain digital files appropriately and avoid storing non-educational materials in school-provided accounts.
- Cloud accounts are school property and may be monitored or audited at any time.

6. Video Conferencing and Virtual Learning Tools

- Students must attend virtual sessions fully dressed and in a distraction-free environment.
- Use of backgrounds, video filters, and usernames must be appropriate and identifiable.
- Recording virtual classes is only allowed with teacher permission and must comply with FERPA.

7. Intellectual Property and Digital Literacy

- Students must credit sources appropriately and follow fair use guidelines for multimedia content.
- Teachers are encouraged to embed **digital literacy instruction** into curricula to help students evaluate online information and avoid misinformation.
- Use of copyrighted media (e.g., music, video clips) must be limited to educational purposes and follow copyright law.

8. Social Media Use

- Students and staff should not post content on social media that could reflect negatively on the school or violate school policy.
- No student photos, names, or personal information may be shared on public platforms by staff or students without parental consent.
- Employees must follow district guidelines when creating or interacting with professional education-related social media.

Policy Management and Flexibility

The Superintendent or their designees may override specific elements of this policy or adjust filtering protocols when necessary to support educational goals or resolve technology-related issues.

Agreement and Acknowledgment

All students, staff, and parents/guardians must read and agree to abide by this Acceptable Use Policy. Signed acknowledgment forms will be maintained in student records.