

# Nord Country School

## BP5110 – Internet Safety Policy



### 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Internet is a place for the exchange of ideas and information. Accordingly, the Internet is an excellent educational tool that allows students to access a wide variety of information to supplement academic study and research. The Charter School provides students with Internet access and email accounts to further their education and research. However, the access the Internet provides to computers and people across the world also provides access to materials that do not have educational value in a school setting. As such, students may encounter information and ideas they may consider obscene, controversial, abusive, or otherwise offensive. Despite these risks, the Charter School believes that the value of the educational information available on the Internet far outweighs the risk that students may access information that is not consistent with educational goals and purposes.
- 1.2 This Policy sets forth student responsibilities and duties when accessing and using the Internet through Charter School equipment and resource network and when using email accounts maintained by the Charter School. The Charter School has deemed certain uses of the Internet inappropriate for an educational setting and therefore not appropriate for use with Charter School equipment and resource networks. The Charter School stresses that an inappropriate use does not always mean that the use is in itself “bad” or illegal, but only that the use does not further the educational goals and purposes of the Charter School.
- 1.3 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:
  - 1.3.1 Inappropriate materials are not accessed or transmitted via internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic transmission using the school computer network;
  - 1.3.2 Unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity is prevented;
  - 1.3.3 Unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors is prevented;
  - 1.3.4 Student access to and use of the Internet is and consistent with the educational goals and purposes of the Charter School;
  - 1.3.5 Students are educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, cyber bullying awareness, and response; and
  - 1.3.6 The School is in compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act and the Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act.

### 2.0 Access to Inappropriate Material

- 2.1 To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.
- 2.2 Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.
- 2.3 Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **3.0 Inappropriate Network Usage**

- 3.1 To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Nord Country School online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- 3.2 Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes:
  - 3.2.1 Unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and
  - 3.2.2 Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

### **4.0 Education, Supervision and Monitoring**

- 4.1 It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Nord Country School staff 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act.
- 4.2 Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Administrator or designated representatives.
- 4.3 The Administrator or designated representatives will provide age appropriate training for students who use the Nord Country School internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote the School’s commitment to:
  - 4.3.1 The standards and acceptable use of internet services as set forth in the School’s Internet Safety Policy;
  - 4.3.2 Student safety with regard to:
    - 4.3.2.1 safety on the internet;
    - 4.3.2.2 appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and
    - 4.3.2.3 cyber bullying awareness and response.
  - 4.3.3 Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (“CIPA”).

- 4.3.4 Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the District's acceptable use policies.

## **5.0 Cyber Bullying**

- 5.1 Cyber Bullying includes the transmission of communications, postings of harassing messages, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyber bullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.
- 5.2 The Board desires to prevent bullying and cyber bullying by establishing a positive, collaborative school climate and clear rules for student's conduct.
- 5.3 The School will provide students with instruction, in the classroom or in other settings, about appropriate online behavior and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and cyber bullying.
- 5.4 The school staff will receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies. Parents/guardians, students and community members may also be provided with similar information.
- 5.5 Any student who engages in cyber bullying on school premises, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with school policies and regulations. If the student is using a social networking site or service that has terms of use that prohibit posting of harmful material, the Administrator or designee may file a complaint with the internet site or service to have the material removed.

## **6.0 Rules Violations**

- 6.1 Employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or receive a report of a violation of these standards, to immediately intervene or call for assistance. If an employee believes a matter has not been resolved, he/she shall refer the matter to the administrator for further investigation.
- 6.2 Students who violate school internet safety rules and regulations may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, denial of the privilege of participating in extracurricular or other school activities, suspension, or expulsion.
- 6.3 Staff members who violate school internet safety rules and regulations may be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal.
- 6.4 The Administrator or designee shall notify local law enforcement as appropriate.
- 6.5 System users also may be subject to discipline, in accordance with law or Board policy, for any off-campus conduct during non-school hours which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or school property, or substantially disrupts school activities.

6.6 System users may submit a verbal or written complaint of conduct they consider to be bullying to a teacher or administrator. Complaints of bullying shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 3040 Uniform Complaint Policy.

6.6.1 When a system user is suspected of or reported to be using electronic or digital communications to engage in cyber bullying against other system users, or to threaten school property, the investigation shall include documentation of the activity, identification of the source, and specific facts or circumstances that explain the impact or potential impact on school activity, school attendance, or the targeted student's educational performance.

6.6.2 System users shall be encouraged to save and print any messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyber bullying and to notify a teacher, the administrator, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated.

6.6.3 If the system user is using a social networking site or service that has terms of use that prohibit posting of harmful material, the Administrator or designee may file a complaint with the Internet site or service to have the material removed.

## **7.0 Adoption and Review**

7.1 Originally Adopted: 3/15/2007

7.2 Most Recent Revision: 3/31/2021