

## **Policy Code: 3340 Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources**

It is a Johnston County Schools objective to make appropriate electronic information resources available to students to assist in furthering educational goals and to provide for efficient school-related communications. This policy governs the use of Johnston County Schools electronic information resources and defines students' proper conduct and responsibilities while using those resources. Johnston County Schools electronic information resources are defined as all school system computer equipment including any desktop or laptop computers or other computer hardware owned or leased by the school system; the Johnston County Schools computer network; e-mail accounts; and any computer software licensed to Johnston County Schools; and electronically stored data. Because electronic information resources are an integral part of the educational curriculum, all students must comply with this policy.

Families are warned that some web sites or web pages accessible via the Internet contain material that is offensive, illegal, sexually explicit and discriminatory. In accordance with federal law, the Johnston County Schools has implemented appropriate measures, including the use of software for Internet content filtering and has procedures in place to further block accessibility to language and visual depictions that are obscene, lewd, pornographic, or harmful to minors. Although it is the intent of the Johnston County Schools that electronic information resources be used only to pursue educational goals and objectives, filters may not block all offensive material and students may find ways to access inappropriate materials.

Johnston County Schools believes that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for communication and collaboration, exceed any disadvantages; but ultimately, parents and legal guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the behaviors that their child should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, the Johnston County School Board of Education supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to deny their child's Internet access. All students are initially granted access to the Internet. However, Internet access is considered a privilege and may be revoked at any time by school administration. Parents or legal guardians may deny access to their child at any time by completing a Parental Request to Deny Access Form.

School administrators and staff are responsible for enforcing this policy for any and all students in the school in which they work. Technology Services personnel are responsible for the use, implementation, and monitoring of Internet content filtering software.

Administrators and staff must supervise student use of electronic information resources in a manner that is appropriate to the students' age and the circumstances of use.

All students are expected to exercise good judgment, use the computer resources in an appropriate manner, and adhere to this policy and all applicable laws and regulations.

Johnston County Schools software is licensed by a large number of vendors and may have specific license restrictions regarding copying or using a particular program. Users must obtain permission from Technology Services prior to purchasing any software. The unauthorized use of and/or copying of software is illegal.

Individual users of the Internet are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The following are specifically not permitted. Johnston County Schools electronic information resources may not be used for the following purposes:

- a) Commercial Use: Using Johnston County Schools computers for personal or private gain, personal business, or commercial advantage is prohibited.
- b) Political Use: Using Johnston County Schools computers to advocate, directly or indirectly, for or against any political candidate or legislation, a school bond referendum.
- c) Illegal or Inappropriate Use: Using Johnston County Schools computers for illegal, harassing, vandalizing, or inappropriate purposes or in support of such activities are prohibited.

d) Illegal activities are any violations of federal, state, or local laws and include, but are not limited to, copyright infringement, illegal file sharing; posting or publishing false or defamatory information about a person or organization; committing fraud, threatening another person; or intentionally engaging in communications for the purpose of abusing, annoying, threatening, terrifying, harassing, or embarrassing another person.

e) Harassment includes, but is not limited to, slurs, comments, jokes, innuendoes, unwelcome compliments, cartoons, visual depictions, pranks, or verbal conduct relating to an individual that (1) have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment; (2) have the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or school performance, or (3) interfere with school operations.

f) Vandalism is any attempt to harm or destroy the operating system, hardware, application software, or data.

Inappropriate use is any violation of other provisions of this policy and includes, but is not limited to, using another person's ID or password; plagiarizing; accessing, producing, storing, posting, sending, displaying, or viewing inappropriate or offensive material, including pornographic, obscene, discriminatory, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually suggestive language or images, or images of exposed private body parts; and accessing material advocating illegal acts or violence, including hate literature; accessing chat-rooms or social pages unless for a valid educational purpose; accessing or attempting to access the server as system administrator.

The Johnston County Schools network may not be used for downloading entertainment software or other files for use on Johnston County Schools network or computers or transfer to a user's home computer or other personal computer. This prohibition pertains to freeware, shareware, copyrighted commercial and non-commercial software, and all other forms of software and files not directly related to the instructional and administrative purposes of the Johnston County Schools.

Johnston County Schools computers may not be used to interfere with or disrupt other users, services, or equipment. For example, disruptions include, but are not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising ("spam"), propagation of computer viruses, distribution of large quantities of information that may overwhelm the system (i.e. chain letters, network games, or broadcasting messages), and any unauthorized access to or destruction of Johnston County Schools or other resources accessible through the computer network ("cracking" or "hacking"). Disruptive use may also be considered inappropriate and/or illegal.

This policy is applicable to all student users of Johnston County Schools computers and refers to all electronic information resources whether individually controlled, shared, stand alone, or networked. Disciplinary action, if any, for students or other users shall be consistent with the Johnston County Schools standard policies and practices, including the Code of Student Conduct. Violations may constitute cause for revocation of access privileges, suspension of access to Johnston County Schools computers, other disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. Specific disciplinary measures will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Johnston County Schools electronic information resources, the Internet, and use of e-mail are not inherently secure or private. Students shall have no expectation of privacy while using Johnston County Schools electronic information resources. The Johnston County Schools reserves the right to search data or e-mail stored on all school-owned or -leased computers or other electronic information resources at any time for any reason. The Johnston County Schools reserves the right to monitor students' use of Johnston County Schools electronic information resources and to take appropriate disciplinary action based on use that is in violation of this policy. The Johnston County Schools reserves the right to disclose any electronic message or data to law enforcement officials, and under some circumstances, may be required to disclose information to law enforcement officials or other third parties, for example, in response to a subpoena or court order.

The Johnston County Schools Board of Education makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the service it is providing. The Johnston County Schools will not be responsible for any damages suffered by users, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-delivery, service interruptions, or any other cause. The Johnston County Schools will not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs, or other obligations arising from the unauthorized use of The Johnston County Schools electronic information resources. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the users risk. The Johnston County Schools Board of Education specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its service. Users are responsible for any losses sustained by the Johnston County Schools resulting from the user's intentional misuse of the Johnston County Schools electronic information resources.

The Board of Education requires that a set of guidelines for Internet use and consistent with this policy be developed. Parents and students must sign an agreement to abide by the guidelines before Internet use by students is allowed. The principal or designee is responsible for reviewing and explaining the guidelines to students prior to their signing.

Legal References: Children's Internet Protection Act, [47 U.S.C., 254](#) and 20 U.S.C. 7001

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#### **JOHNSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**