

Sebastopol Independent Charter School

Board Policy

Student Use Of Technology

Adopted: February 1, 2021

BP 6163.4

Instruction

The Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the charter school be used in a safe and responsible manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning. All students using these resources shall receive instruction in their proper and appropriate use.

Teachers, administrators, and/or media specialists are expected to review the technological resources and online sites that will be used in the classroom or assigned to students in order to ensure that they are appropriate for the intended purpose and the age of the students.

The Executive Director or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of charter school technology, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities in accordance with this Board policy and the charter school's Acceptable Use Agreement.

Charter school technology includes, but is not limited to, computers, the charter school's computer network including servers and wireless computer networking technology (wi-fi), the Internet, Google Suite products available through the school, email, USB drives, wireless access points (routers), tablet computers, smartphones and smart devices, telephones, cellular telephones, personal digital assistants, pagers, MP3 players, wearable technology, any wireless communication device including emergency radios, and/or future technological innovations, whether accessed on or off site or through charter school-owned or personally owned equipment or devices.

Before a student is authorized to use charter school technology, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement. In that agreement, the parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the charter school or any charter school staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures or user mistakes or negligence and shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the charter school and charter school staff for any damages or costs incurred.

The charter school reserves the right to monitor student use of technology within the jurisdiction of the charter school without advance notice or consent. Students shall be informed that their use of charter school technology, including, but not limited to, computer files, email, text messages, instant messaging, and other electronic communications, is not private and may be accessed by the charter school for the purpose of ensuring proper use. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in use of the charter school technology. Students' personally owned devices shall not be searched except in cases where there is a reasonable suspicion, based on

specific and objective facts, that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law, charter school policy, or school rules.

The Executive Director or designee may gather and maintain information pertaining directly to school safety or student safety from the social media activity of any charter school student in accordance with Education Code 49073.6 and BP/AR 5125 - Student Records.

Whenever a student is found to have violated Board policy or the charter school's Acceptable Use Agreement, the principal or designee may cancel or limit a student's user privileges or increase supervision of the student's use of the charter school's equipment and other technological resources, as appropriate. Inappropriate use also may result in disciplinary action and/or legal action in accordance with law and Board policy.

The Executive Director or designee, with input from students and appropriate staff, shall regularly review and update procedures to enhance the safety and security of students using charter school technology and to help ensure that the charter school adapts to changing technologies and circumstances.

Internet Safety

The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that all charter school computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that protects against access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors and that the operation of such measures is enforced. (20 USC 7131; 47 USC 254; 47 CFR 54.520)

To reinforce these measures, the Executive Director or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities.

Harmful matter includes matter, taken as a whole, which to the average person, applying contemporary statewide standards, appeals to the prurient interest and is matter which depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct and which lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. (Penal Code 313)

The charter school's Acceptable Use Agreement shall establish expectations for appropriate student conduct when using the Internet or other forms of electronic communication, including, but not limited to, prohibitions against:

1. Accessing, posting, submitting, publishing, or displaying harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs.
2. Intentionally uploading, downloading, or creating computer viruses and/or maliciously attempting to harm or destroy charter school equipment or materials or manipulate the data of any other user, including so-called "hacking."

3. Distributing personal identification information, including the name, address, telephone number, Social Security number, or other personally identifiable information, of another student, staff member, or other person with the intent to threaten, intimidate, harass, or ridicule that person

The Executive Director or designee shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the dangers of posting one's own personal identification information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying.