

## TECHNOLOGY USAGE

The Republic R-III School District's technology exists for the purpose of maximizing the educational opportunities and achievement of district students. Research shows that students who have access to technology improve achievement. In addition, technology assists with the professional enrichment of the staff and Board and increases engagement of students' families and other patrons of the district, all of which positively impact student achievement. The district will periodically conduct a technology census to ensure that instructional resources and equipment that support and extend the curriculum are readily available to teachers and students.

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate access to district technology and to create a safe environment in which to use that technology.

### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy and related procedures and forms, the following terms are defined:

*Technology Resources* – Technologies, devices and resources used to access, process, store or communicate information. This definition includes, but is not limited to: computers, modems, printers, scanners, fax machines and transmissions, telephonic equipment, audio-visual equipment, Internet, electronic mail, electronic communications devices and services, multi-media resources, hardware and software.

*User* – Any person who is permitted by the district to utilize any portion of the district's technology resources including, but not limited to, students, employees, School Board members and agents of the school district.

*User Identification (ID)* – Any identifier that would allow a user access to the district's technology resources or to any program including, but not limited to, e-mail and Internet access.

*Password* – A unique word, phrase or combination of alphabetic, numeric and non-alphanumeric characters used to authenticate a user ID as belonging to a user.

### Authorized Users

The district's technology resources may be used by authorized students, employees, School Board members and other persons such as consultants, legal counsel and independent contractors. All users must agree to follow the district's policies and procedures. Unless authorized by the superintendent or designee, all users must have a signed *User Agreement* on file with the district before they are allowed access to district technology resources.

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Use of the district's technology resources is a privilege, not a right. No potential user will be given an ID, password or other access to district technology if he or she is considered a security risk by the superintendent or designee.

### **User Privacy**

A user does not have a legal expectation of privacy in the user's electronic communications or other activities involving the district's technology resources, including e-mail and access to the Internet or network drives. By using the district's network and technology resources, all users are consenting to having their electronic communications and all other use monitored by the district. A user ID with e-mail access will only be provided to authorized users on condition that the user consents to interception of or access to all communications accessed, sent, received or stored using district technology.

Electronic communications, downloaded material and all data stored on the district's technology resources, including files deleted from a user's account, may be intercepted, accessed or searched by district administrators or designees at any time in the regular course of business to protect users and district equipment. Any such search, access or interception will be reasonable in inception and scope and shall comply with all applicable laws.

### **Technology Administration**

The Board directs the superintendent or designee to create procedures governing technology usage and to assign trained personnel to maintain the district's technology in a manner that will protect the district from liability and will protect confidential student and employee information retained on or accessible through district technology resources.

Administrators of computer resources may suspend access to and/or availability of the district's technology resources to diagnose and investigate network problems or potential violations of the law or district policies and procedures. All district technology resources are considered district property. The district may maintain or improve technology resources at any time. The district may remove, change or exchange hardware or other technology between buildings, classrooms or users at any time without prior notice. Authorized district personnel may install or remove new programs or information, install new equipment, upgrade any system or enter any system to correct problems at any time.

### **Content Filtering and Monitoring**

The district will monitor the online activities of minors and operate a technology protection measure ("filtering/blocking device") on the network and/or all computers with Internet access, as required by law. The filtering/blocking device will be used to protect against access to visual depictions that

are obscene or harmful to minors or are child pornography, as required by law. Filtering/Blocking devices are not foolproof, and the district cannot guarantee that users will never be able to access offensive materials using district equipment. Evasion or disabling, or attempting to evade or disable, a filtering/blocking device installed by the district is prohibited.

The superintendent, designee or the district's technology administrator may disable the district's filtering/blocking device to enable a non-student user access for bona fide research or for other lawful purposes. In making decisions to disable the district's filtering/blocking device, the administrator shall consider whether the use will serve a legitimate educational purpose or otherwise benefit the district.

### **Closed Forum**

The district's technology resources are not a public forum for expression of any kind and are to be considered a closed forum to the extent allowed by law. The district's webpage will provide information about the school district, but will not be used as an open forum.

All expressive activities involving district technology resources that students, parents/guardians and members of the public might reasonably perceive to bear the imprimatur of the district and that are designed to impart particular knowledge or skills to student participants and audiences are considered curricular publications. All curricular publications are subject to reasonable prior restraint, editing and deletion on behalf of the school district for legitimate pedagogical reasons. All other expressive activities involving the district's technology are subject to reasonable prior restraint and subject matter restrictions as allowed by law and Board policies.

### **Records Retention**

Trained personnel shall establish a retention schedule for the regular archiving or deletion of data stored on district technology resources that complies with the *Public School District Records Retention Manual* as well as the *General Records Retention Manual* published by the Missouri Secretary of State. In the case of pending or threatened litigation, the district's attorney will issue a litigation hold directive to the superintendent or designee.

The litigation hold directive will override any records retention schedule that may have otherwise called for the transfer, disposal or destruction of relevant documents until the hold has been lifted by the district's attorney. E-mail and computer accounts of separated employees that have been placed on a litigation hold will be maintained by the district's information technology department until the hold is released. No employee who has been so notified of a litigation hold may alter or delete any electronic record that falls within the scope of the hold. Violation of the hold may subject the individual to disciplinary actions, up to and including termination of employment, as well as personal liability for civil and/or criminal sanctions by the courts or law enforcement agencies.

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## **Violations of Technology Usage Policies and Procedures**

Use of technology resources in a disruptive, manifestly inappropriate or illegal manner impairs the district's mission, squanders resources and shall not be tolerated. Therefore, a consistently high level of personal responsibility is expected of all users granted access to the district's technology resources. Any violation of district policies or procedures regarding technology usage may result in temporary, long-term or permanent suspension of user privileges. User privileges may be suspended pending investigation into the use of the district's technology resources.

Employees may be disciplined or terminated, and students suspended or expelled, for violating the district's technology policies and procedures. Any attempted violation of the district's technology policies or procedures, regardless of the success or failure of the attempt, may result in the same discipline or suspension of privileges as that of an actual violation.

### **Damages**

All damages incurred by the district due to a user's intentional or negligent misuse of the district's technology resources, including loss of property and staff time, will be charged to the user. District administrators have the authority to sign any criminal complaint regarding damage to district technology.

### **No Warranty/No Endorsement**

The district makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services, products or access it provides. The district's technology resources are available on an "as is, as available" basis.

The district is not responsible for loss of data, delays, nondeliveries, misdeliveries or service interruptions. The district does not endorse the content nor guarantee the accuracy or quality of information obtained using the district's technology resources.

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***Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.***

Adopted: 08/20/2001

Revised: 03/29/2004; 03/17/2008

Cross Refs: AC, Prohibition Against Illegal Discrimination and Harassment  
IGDB, Student Publications  
IGDBA, Distribution of Noncurricular Student Publications  
JO, Student Records  
KB, Public Information Program

MSIP Refs: 6.4, 6.8

Legal Refs: §§ 170.051, 182.827, 431.055, 537.525, 542.402, 569.095 - .099, 610.010 - .028,  
RSMo.  
Chapter 109, RSMo.  
Chapter 573, RSMo.  
Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510-2520  
Stored Communications Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2701 - 2711  
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g  
Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)  
Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34  
*Reno v. ACLU*, 521 U.S. 844 (1997)  
*Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)  
*Bethel Sch. Dist. No. 403 v. Fraser*, 478 U.S. 675 (1986)  
*Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc.*, 464 U.S. 417 (1984)  
*FCC v. Pacifica Foundation*, 438 U.S. 726 (1978)  
*Ginsberg v. New York*, 390 U.S. 629 (1968)  
*Biby v. Bd. of Regents of the Univ. of Nebraska*, 419 F.3d 845 (8th Cir. 2005)  
*Henerey by Henerey v. City of St. Charles Sch. Dist.*, 200 F.3d 1128 (8th Cir. 1999)  
*Bystrom v. Fridley High Sch. Ind. Sch. Dist.*, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987)  
*Urofsky v. Gilmore*, 216 F.3d 401 (4th Cir. 2000)  
*Beussink v. Woodland R-IV Sch. Dist.*, 30 F. Supp. 2d 1175 (E.D. Mo 1998)  
*J.S. v. Bethlehem Area Sch. Dist.*, 757 A.2d 412 (Pa. Commw. 2000)

Republic R-III School District, Republic, Missouri

