

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Plymouth, Michigan

MEMO

MEMO TO: Members of the Board of Education
Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent

FROM: Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

DATE: February 22, 2024

SUBJECT: **Policy 7540.03- Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety**

Date to Administrator for review: October 2023 Reviewed by: Shonta Langford/Mark Salzer

Date reviewed and approved by the Policy Advisory Committee: December 12, 2023

This policy from NEOLA:

	reflects current state of the law and should be adopted to have accurate policies
X	is recommended but not required
	is optional

This policy is being brought to the Board of Education for second reading.

KEY IDEA:

This policy has been revised to include updated language technology and Artificial Intelligence use.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

It was moved by member _____ and seconded by member _____ to approve the second reading of **Policy 7540.03** for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

The Motion was: _____

Attachments X New/Revised/Replacement Policy
 Current Policy

Title Vol. 37, No. 2 - Technology - STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

Policy#-7540.03

Adopted June 14, 2005

Last Revised June 11, 2013

Revised Policy - Vol. 37, No. 2

7540.03 - STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

Technology ~~directly affects~~ ~~has fundamentally altered~~ the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. ~~Educators are expected to continually adapt~~ ~~As a result, educators are continually adapting~~ their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to incorporate the latest technologies. The Board of Education provides Information & Technology Resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100) (collectively, "District Information & Technology Resources") ~~vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet. The Board of Education provides Technology Resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100)~~ to support the educational and professional needs of its students and staff. With respect to students, District Information & Technology Resources afford them the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. The Board provides students with access to the Internet for ~~limited~~ educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services/apps to enhance the instruction delivered to its students. The District's computer network and Internet system does not serve as a public access service or a public forum, and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its ~~stated~~ ~~limited~~ educational purpose.

The Board regulates the use of District Information & Technology Resources ~~in a manner~~ ~~by principles~~ consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal laws, the District's educational mission, and articulated expectations of student conduct as delineated in the Student Code of Conduct. This policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct govern students' use of District Information & Technology Resources and students' personal communication devices when they are connected to District Information & Technology Resources, including online educational services/apps, regardless of whether such use takes place ~~on or off school property~~ ~~the District computer network, Internet connection, and/or online educational services/apps, or when used while the student is on Board-owned property or at a Board-sponsored activity~~ (see Policy 5136).

Students are prohibited from using District Information & Technology Resources to engage in illegal conduct (e.g., libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, etc.) or conduct that violates this Policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct (e.g., making personal attacks or injurious comments, invading a person's privacy, etc.). Nothing herein, however, shall infringe on students' First Amendment rights ~~Users are required to refrain from actions that are illegal (such as libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, and the like) or unkind (such as personal attacks, invasion of privacy, injurious comment, and the like).~~ Because its Information & Technology Resources are not unlimited, the District ~~may institute~~ ~~has also instituted~~ restrictions aimed at preserving these resources, such as placing limits on use of bandwidth, storage space, and printers.

~~Students~~ ~~Users~~ have no right or expectation to privacy when using District Information & Technology Resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, ~~messages/e-mails, and/or records of their online activity~~) ~~when using the District's computer network and/or Internet connection~~.

While the Board ~~uses various technologies to limit students using its Information & Technology Resources to only use/access online educational services/apps and resources that have been pre-approved for the purpose of instruction, study, and research related to the curriculum, it is impossible to prevent students from accessing and/or coming in contact with online content that has not been pre-approved for use by students of certain ages. It is no longer possible for educators and community members~~ ~~First, the Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its Technology Resources, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen all materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them) when significant portions of students' education take place online or through the use of online educational services/apps, access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that may not have been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.~~

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board ~~implements~~ ~~has implemented~~ technology protection measures that protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute ~~child~~ pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). At the discretion of the Board, ~~or the Superintendent, or the Director of Integrated Technology Systems,~~ the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to ~~child~~ pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using District Information & Technology Resources, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under CIPA ~~the Children's Internet Protection Act~~. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be ~~disciplined in accordance with the student handbook~~ ~~subject to discipline~~.

The Superintendent or **Director of Integrated Technology Systems** may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services/apps containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been **mistakenly, improperly, or inadvertently** blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

Parents/**Guardians** are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to **online content and/or services/apps and/or resources on the Internet** that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to **content information and communications** that they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable, or controversial. Parents/**Guardians** of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using **digital technology resources** ~~the Internet~~.

Admin and building staff are responsible for providing training so that students under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information;
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking", "harvesting", "digital piracy", "data mining", etc.), cyberbullying, and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online; ~~and~~
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally-identifiable information regarding minors.

Staff members shall provide **guidance and instruction to their students regarding the appropriate use of District Information & Technology Resources and online safety and security as specified above.** Additionally, such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior including interacting with others on social media, including in chat rooms, and **cyberbullying awareness and response** ~~instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above.~~ Furthermore, staff members **can and may** will monitor the online activities of students while **they are using District Information & Technology Resources at school.** Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions; or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

~~Building principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of District Technology Resources. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media, including in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. All users of District Technology Resources (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines. Every student who uses District Information & Technology Resources must have a parent or guardian acknowledge electronically they abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines, via their Parent Connection account for that student. (See Form 7540.03 F1)~~

In order to keep District Information & Technology Resources operating in a safe, secure, efficient, effective, and beneficial manner to all users, students are required to comply with all District-established cybersecurity procedures. Principals are responsible for providing such training on a regular basis and measuring the effectiveness of the training.

Students will be assigned a **District-provided** school e-mail account that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to staff members, peers, ~~and individuals,~~ and/or organizations outside the District with whom they are communicating for school-related projects and assignments. Further, as directed and authorized by their teachers, they shall use their school-assigned e-mail account when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services/apps, ~~including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes.~~

Students **and staff** are responsible for good behavior when using District **Information & Technology Resources** – i.e., behavior comparable to that expected of students when they are in **physical classrooms and school buildings and at school-sponsored events.** ~~Because communications classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school-sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature, general.~~ ~~General~~ school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not approve any use of its **Information & Technology Resources** that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students may only use District **Information & Technology Resources** to access or use social media if it is done for educational purposes in accordance with their teacher's approved plan for such use.

Use of Artificial Intelligence/Natural Language Processing Tools

It is the Board's policy that students are required to rely on their own knowledge, skills, and resources when completing school work. In order to ensure the integrity of the educational process and to promote fair and equal opportunities for all students, except as outlined below, students are prohibited from using Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools (collectively, "AI/NLP tools") to complete school work. The use of AI/NLP without the express permission/consent of a teacher is considered to undermine the learning and problem-solving skills that are essential to a student's academic success. Consequently, students are encouraged to develop their own knowledge, skills, and understanding of course material rather than relying solely

on AI/NLP tools, and they are expected to ask their teachers when they have questions and/or need assistance. A student's unauthorized use of AI/NLP tools is considered a form of plagiarism and any student found using such tools without permission or in a prohibited manner will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Notwithstanding the preceding, students are allowed to use AI/NLP tools in the school setting if they receive prior permission/consent from their teacher, so long as they use the AI/NLP tools in an ethical and responsible manner, the AI/NLP terms of use and/or privacy terms permit their access, and no technical or security concerns preclude such access. Teachers have the discretion to authorize students to use AI/NLP tools for various uses including the following, provided the AI/NLP terms of use and/or privacy terms permit their access and technology protection measures aren't otherwise blocking said access:

Research assistance: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students quickly and efficiently search for and find relevant information for their school projects and assignments.

Data Analysis: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students to analyze, understand, and interpret large amounts of data, such as text documents or social media posts. This can be particularly useful for research projects or data analysis assignments – e.g., scientific experiments and marketing research.

Language translation: AI/NLP tools can be used to translate texts or documents into different languages, which can be helpful for students who are learning a new language or for students who are studying texts written in a different language.

Writing assistance: AI/NLP tools can provide grammar and spelling corrections, as well as suggest alternative word choices and sentence structure, to help students improve their writing skills.

Accessibility: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students with disabilities access and understand written materials. For example, text-to-speech software can help students with specific learning disabilities or visual impairments to read texts and AI-powered translation tools can help students with hearing impairments to understand spoken language.

As outlined above, under appropriate circumstances, AI/NLP tools can be effectively used as a supplement to and not a replacement for traditional learning methods. Consequently, with prior teacher permission/consent, students can use AI/NLP tools to help them better understand and analyze information and/or access course materials. If a student has any questions about whether they are permitted to use AI/NLP tools for a specific class assignment, they should ask their teacher.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of District Information & Technology Resources that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

The Board designates the Superintendent and Director of Integrated Technology Systems as the administrator(s) responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying guidelines as they apply to students' use of District Information & Technology Resources.

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Legal P.L. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000

P.L. 110-385, Title II, Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

18 U.S.C. 1460

18 U.S.C. 2246

18 U.S.C. 2256

20 U.S.C. 6777, 9134 (2003)

20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (2003)

47 U.S.C. 254(h), (1), Communications Act of 1934, as amended (2003)

47 C.F.R. 54.500 – 54.523