

8.22—TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY

Definition

“Technology resources” means:

- The machines, devices, and transmission facilities used in information processing, including computers, word processors, terminals, telephones, cables, software, and related products;
- The devices used to process information through electronic capture, collection, storage, manipulation, transmission, retrieval, and presentation of information in the form of data, text, voices, or image and includes telecommunications and office automation functions;
- Any component related to information processing and wired or wireless telecommunications, including data processing and telecommunications hardware, software, services, planning, personnel, facilities, and training;
- The procedures, equipment, and software that are designed, built, operated, and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display, and transmit information, and the associated personnel, including consultants and contractors; and
- All electronic mail accounts issued by a public entity.

The Van Buren School District provides technology resources for many employees to assist employees in performing work related tasks. Employees are advised that they enjoy **no expectation of privacy** in any aspect of their computer use, including email, and that under Arkansas law both email and technology use records maintained by the district are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Consequently, no employee or student-related reprimands or other disciplinary communications should be made through email except when specifically authorized by District policy.

Passwords or security procedures are to be used as assigned, and confidentiality of student records is to be maintained at all times. Employees must not disable or bypass security procedures, compromise, attempt to compromise, or defeat the district’s technology network security, alter data without authorization, disclose passwords to other staff members or students, or grant students access to any computer not designated for student use. It is the policy of this school district to equip each computer with Internet filtering software designed to prevent users from accessing material that is harmful to minors. The designated District Technology Administrator or designee may authorize the disabling of the filter to enable access by an adult for a bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

District technology resources shall not be used to violate Arkansas or Federal law.

An employee shall not use District technology resources to express a political opinion to an elected official unless the opinion is either within the scope of the employee's regular job duties or requested by an elected official or public entity. District technology resources shall not be used to engage in lobbying an elected official on a personal opinion by an employee unless the employee is a registered lobbyist for the District.

Employees who misuse district-owned technology resources in any way, including excessive personal use, using computers for personal use during work or instructional time, using computers to violate any other policy, knowingly or negligently allowing unauthorized access, or using the computers to access or create sexually explicit or pornographic text or graphics, will face disciplinary action, up to and including termination or non-renewal of the employment contract.

Legal References: Children's Internet Protection Act; PL 106-554
20 USC 6777
47 USC 254(h)
A.C.A. § 6-21-107
A.C.A. § 6-21-111
A.C.A. § 25-1-128
Commissioner's Memo COM-24-038

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