

Baldwin County Internet Acceptable Use Policy

IFBG - INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE

The Board of Education authorizes the use of the Internet in instructional programs as an educational tool that facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing, and access to information. Due to the complex nature of accessible networks and the magnitude of potential information available to students and staff utilizing the Internet, the Board believes comprehensive guidelines in the form of administrative procedures and rules are warranted in order best to serve the educational needs of student/staff.

Staff/students using the Internet shall comply with the administrative rules provided by the Superintendent regarding Internet use. The Board, through its administrative staff, reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by staff/students. Staff and students must be advised that privacy in the use of the Internet is not guaranteed. In addition, use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Students violating the Board's policy and administrative rule(s) shall be subject to revocation of privileges and potential disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action.

The Board makes no assurance of any kind, whether expressed or implied, regarding any Internet services provided. The School System or individual schools in the System shall not be responsible for any damages that staff/student users may suffer.

Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the student's own risk. The School System specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information or software obtained through its services. This paragraph shall be incorporated verbatim in any school's or district's adopted Internet access agreement.

In order for student to gain access to the Internet, the student and student's parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the appropriate school's Internet network access agreement.

The Superintendent is authorized to amend or revise or enlarge upon the following Board-approved administrative rules, as he/she deems necessary and appropriate consistent with this policy.

It must be understood by all concerned that the global and fluid nature of the Internet network's contents makes it extremely difficult for the Board to completely regulate and monitor the information received or sent by staff/students. As such, the Board cannot assure parents that students will be prevented from accessing undesirable materials or sending or receiving objectionable communications.

It shall be the policy of the Baldwin County Board of Education that the school district shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying "technology protection measure," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(1) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000; and

2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i.) obscene, (ii.) child pornography, or (iii.) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in Section 1703(b)(1) and (2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to:

- a. Provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;
- b. Promote the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- c. Prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unauthorized activities by minors online;
- d. Prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and

Restrict minors' access to materials "harmful to minors," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000.

Cf: IFBGA and IFBGB

BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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