

524 ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES

I. PURPOSE

The intent of the Independent School District No. 194 acceptable use policy is to ensure that all uses of electronic information resources are aligned with the educational goals and policies of the District.

II. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy refers to all electronic information resources within the District whether individually controlled or shared, stand alone or networked. Individual building administrators may define additional "conditions of use" for facilities under their control. Such statements must be consistent with this overall policy but may provide additional details, guidelines, and/or restrictions.

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Independent School District No. 194 provides students, staff, and community members with access to a variety of electronic information resources to store, access, process, create, and communicate information in preparation for life and work. As technologies and their uses increase in our schools and in our community, our students increasingly experience many electronic information resources previously unavailable. With these extended educational opportunities and expanded information resources come potential threats for students, staff, or community members to misuse electronic information resources or to access electronic information resources that are inappropriate or inconsistent with our educational goals.

District electronic information resources such as video equipment, computer hardware and software, networks and Internet connectivity, data files, e-mail, telephones, voice mail, and other digital devices will be used by students, staff, and community members in a manner consistent with District goals and policies. Acceptable uses of District electronic information resources include, but are not limited to:

- Using electronic information resources to support learning and to enhance instruction that is consistent with the District's mission.
- Using electronic information resources in a responsible, considerate, efficient, ethical, and legal manner.
- Using electronic information resources to comply with all existing board of education policies.
- Using electronic information resources to complete assigned instructional and administrative tasks that may require research, inquiry, problem-solving, record-keeping, reporting, or communication.

- Using and connecting equipment that is not owned or maintained by the District to District technology or networks must be done in accordance with established guidelines and procedures.

Although we respect each individual's right to freedom of expression, some activities conflict with the District's goals and mission statements. Unacceptable uses of District electronic information resources include, but are not limited to:

- Using electronic information resources for personal or commercial profit-making enterprises.
- Using electronic information resources for electronic theft or copyright violations.
- Using profane, obscene, abusive, or threatening language within electronic communications. Using electronic information resources for inappropriate activities, such as harassment, hate speech, or illegal conduct.
- Searching, collecting, distributing, or publishing profane, obscene, or sexually graphic information.
- Using electronic resources to promote or advance political agendas or viewpoints in violation of district policy.
- Other use that compromises the integrity or security of the District's or any other user's electronic information resources including video equipment, hardware/software, networks, or files.

Violations of this policy will result in actions consistent with existing disciplinary policies and may include any or all of the following consequences:

- Revocation of use or access to electronic information resources.
- School disciplinary action possible including suspension or expulsion for students or formal reprimand or dismissal for staff.
- Legal action when appropriate.

The District will operate electronic filtering of Internet content at the core of its network in compliance with the Federal Child Internet Protection Act as it resides in law on the date of approval of this policy. This filter does not guarantee lack of access to inappropriate sites that would violate this policy.