

STUDENT USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES, BLOGGING AND THE INTERNET

Policy Code: **4313**

INTRODUCTION

The Board respects the right of students to use social networking sites (e.g., MySpace, Facebook), personal Web sites, Weblogs, Wikis and other web tools (collectively “Internet Postings”) as a medium of self-expression. However, inappropriate Internet Postings by students can cause substantial disruptions to the school environment. Accordingly, the Board requires that students observe the following guidelines for Internet Postings, regardless of the location of the internet access.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS

1. Students shall not use profane, pornographic, obscene, indecent, lewd, vulgar or sexually offensive language, pictures or graphics in Internet Postings that could cause a substantial disruption to the school environment.
2. Students shall not use language, pictures or graphics promoting violence or gang activity in Internet Postings.
3. Students shall not use Internet Postings to libel or defame the Board, School System, school employees, or other students.
4. Students shall not use Internet Postings to harass, bully, or intimidate employees or other students. Behaviors that constitute harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, comments that are derogatory with respect to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, color, age or disability; sexually suggestive, humiliating, or demeaning comments; and threats to stalk, haze, physically injure or damage the property of another student or employees.
5. Students shall not post pictures of school system employees without obtaining written permission. Students shall not falsely represent themselves as an employee of the school system.

CONSEQUENCES

A student will be disciplined for creating and/or distributing written or electronic material, including Internet Postings that causes substantial disruption to school operations and/or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including long-term suspension, 365 days suspension or expulsion.

Legal Reference: 14-277.1, 14-190.1

Cross References: School Plan for Managing Student Behavior (Policy 4302), Integrity and Civility (Policy 4310), Anti-Gang Policy (Policy 4317), Long-Term Suspension, 365 Days Suspension, Expulsion (Policy 4353)

Adopted: July 14, 2008

Revised: June 17, 2010