

5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

Definitions

Includes - Means "includes without limitation" or "includes, but is not limited to."

Social media - Media for social interaction, using highly accessible communication techniques through the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue. This includes, but is not limited to, services such as *Facebook*, *LinkedIn*, *Twitter*, *Instagram*, *Snapchat*, and *YouTube*.

Personal technology - Any device that is not owned or leased by the District or otherwise authorized for District use and: (1) transmits sounds, images, text, messages, videos, or electronic information, (2) electronically records, plays, or stores information, or (3) accesses the Internet, or private communication or information networks. This includes laptop computers (e.g., laptops, ultrabooks, and chromebooks), tablets (e.g., iPads®, Kindle®, Microsoft Surface®, and other Android® platform or Windows® devices), smartphones (e.g., iPhone®, BlackBerry®, Android® platform phones, and Windows Phone®), and other devices (e.g., iPod®).

Usage and Conduct

All District employees who use personal technology and social media shall:

1. Adhere to the high standards for appropriate school relationships required by policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest* at all times, regardless of the ever-changing social media and personal technology platforms available. This includes District employees posting images or private information about themselves or others in a manner readily accessible to students and other employees that is inappropriate as defined by policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; and the Ill. Code of Educator Ethics, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20.
2. Use a District-provided or supported method whenever possible to communicate with students, their parents/guardians and other employees regarding school-related business.
3. Refrain from using social media and/or correspondence via personal with students that is not connected with school or school-related functions.
4. Comply with policy 5:130, *Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information*. This means that personal technology and social media may not be used to share, publish, or transmit information about or images of (1) students; or (2) District employees relating to school or school-related functions, without proper approval.
5. Restrict the use of personal technology and social media for personal purposes while at work to scheduled break times and/or times in which the employee is not instructing or supervising students. Any use of personal technology and social media during appropriate times must not interfere with job duties or otherwise be disruptive to the school environment or its operations in any way.
6. In the event that a District employee chooses to use personal technology and/or social media at school or school-sponsored activities, pursuant to the conditions set forth herein, the employee must take all reasonable steps to prevent a student's viewing of inappropriate Internet materials through the District employee's personal technology or social media. The Board expressly disclaims any responsibility for imposing content filters, blocking lists, or monitoring of its employees' personal technology and social media.
7. Be subject to appropriate discipline for violation of this policy, up to and including discharge from employment. Additionally, if appropriate, the District will contact the police for violations of this policy.
8. Seek the advice and guidance of the Building Principal or other administrators in addressing the application of this policy to particular situations.

The Superintendent shall:

1. Inform District employees about this policy during the in-service on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct required by Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*.
2. Direct Building Principals to annually provide their building staff with a copy of this policy.
3. Build awareness of this policy with students, parents, and the community.
4. Ensure that no one for the District, or on its behalf, requests of an employee or applicant access in any manner to his or her social networking website or requests passwords to such sites.
5. Periodically review this policy and any procedures with District employee representatives and electronic network system administrator(s) and present proposed changes to the Board.

LEGAL REF.:105 ILCS 5/ 21B-75 and 5/ 21B-80.

Ill. Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/5A-102.

Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20.

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

Pickering v. High School Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

Mayer v. Monroe County Community School Corp., 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).

CROSS REF.:5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:170 (Copyright), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED:December 19, 2016