

NEISD Student Acceptable Use Policy for the District Technology Resources

Purpose and Scope

This document outlines the policies governing the use of all District technology resources by students. It applies to usage on or near school property, in school vehicles, at school-sponsored activities on- or off-campus, and via remote access from off-campus locations. The District reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions of this document at any time. The latest version is available online at <https://www.neisd.net/aup>.

Introduction

The District is committed to preparing students for future success in college, the workforce, and military service by providing a future-ready education that integrates technology into the learning experience. To support this goal, the District offers access to a comprehensive electronic communication system, including computers, the Internet, a robust network, and various digital resources. This access enhances educational excellence during in-person and virtual instruction. Access to these resources is a privilege that carries responsibilities. The District is also dedicated to educating students on appropriate online behavior, including safe interactions and addressing cyberbullying.

All students are expected to use technology responsibly, whether District- provided or personal, and they are expected to act in an appropriate manner in accordance with campus procedures, District policy and procedures, and legal requirements.

This Policy shall be used in conjunction with NEISD Board Policy FNCE (Legal) and (Local), which deals with Student Rights and Responsibilities, and the Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board and found in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Proper and Acceptable Use Defined

The District requires students to use all technology resources, including any websites or software used in the classroom or remotely, in a manner consistent with the following rules. The District will hold students responsible for any intentional misuse of its technology resources, or any other failure to comply with the rules in this policy. When using District technology systems outside the school, parents/guardians should strive to ensure that students do so in compliance with the rules set forth in this policy. Although the District's content-filtering software monitors network traffic on District provided electronic devices when away from the District's wireless network, parents/guardians are encouraged to place content-filtering software on their personal computers or take any other steps necessary to filter and monitor students' Internet usage at home.

Students are expected to use all District technology resources, including any websites or software used in the classroom or remotely, in a manner that supports their education and academic growth. The following rules outline acceptable activities and those that are strictly prohibited to ensure a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment. Parents/guardians are encouraged to support these expectations by monitoring their children's use of District technology resources at home.

Acceptable activities include:

- Interactive Learning: Using educational apps and simulations to make complex concepts more understandable and engaging.

- **Research and Information Access:** Utilizing online databases, digital libraries, and search engines to gather information and conduct research on various topics including using AI in accordance with the guidelines listed under section **Access and Use of Artificial Intelligence**.
- **Collaboration and Communication:** Participating in group projects through collaborative tools like Google Workspace, Microsoft Teams, and other shared platforms.
- **Virtual Classrooms and Online Learning:** Attending classes, accessing course materials, and participating in discussions through platforms like Google Classroom, Zoom, or Moodle.
- **Skill Development:** Learning coding, graphic design, video editing, and other skills using specialized software and online courses.
- **Personalized Learning:** Engaging with adaptive learning platforms that tailor content to individual learning needs and pace.
- **Digital Literacy:** Developing skills in using technology responsibly, including understanding digital citizenship, online safety, and effective use of social media.
- **Creative Expression:** Creating digital art, music, videos, podcasts, and blogs to showcase creativity and share personal projects.
- **STEM Exploration:** Engaging with robotics, 3D printing, and virtual labs to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a hands-on way.
- **Global Connectivity:** Connecting with students and experts around the world through virtual exchanges, video conferences, and collaborative projects.
- **Assistive Technology:** Utilizing tools like text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and other accessibility features to support diverse learning needs.
- **Test Preparation and Practice:** Using online practice tests, flashcards, and quizzes to prepare for exams and assessments.
- **Time Management and Organization:** Using digital planners, calendars, and reminder apps to stay organized and manage assignments effectively..

Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to:

- **Cyberbullying:** Harassing, intimidating, or bullying others through digital platforms, including social media, messaging, and email.
- **Accessing Inappropriate Content:** Viewing, downloading, or sharing obscene, offensive, or age-inappropriate material, such as pornography, violent images, or hate speech.
- **Hacking and Unauthorized Access:** Attempting to bypass security measures, hack into District systems, or access unauthorized files, accounts, or networks.
- **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Copying or presenting someone else's or a tool's work as one's own, including using unauthorized digital resources during exams to include State and District.
- **Disruptive Behavior:** Using technology to disrupt the learning environment, such as playing games, using social media, or engaging in non-academic activities during class time.
- **Infringement of Copyright:** Illegally downloading or distributing copyrighted software, music, videos, or other digital media.
- **Sharing Personal Information:** Posting or sharing personal information about oneself or others without consent, including names, addresses, phone numbers, or sensitive data.
- **Unauthorized Recording:** Recording or photographing others without their knowledge or permission, including in-person and virtual environments.
- **Using Technology for Commercial Purposes:** Engaging in buying, selling, advertising, or conducting personal business activities on District devices or networks.

- **Installing Unapproved Software:** Downloading or installing software, apps, or extensions not approved by the school or District IT department.
- **Spreading Malware:** Intentionally transmitting or installing viruses, spyware, or other malicious software on District or personal devices.
- **Impersonation and Identity Theft:** Pretending to be another person online, using their accounts, or misrepresenting one's identity for deceitful purposes.

Access and Use of Artificial Intelligence

The District is committed to preparing students for the future by responsibly integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into the learning environment. AI literacy is an essential component of this preparation, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate a world where AI plays an increasingly significant role. By modeling best practices, the District promotes the effective use of AI as a valuable learning partner. AI can provide timely feedback, act as a learning aid, and support personalized learning, enabling students to progress at their own pace and meet individual goals.

AI Literacy and Responsible Use

Understanding how AI works, its potential, and its limitations is crucial for developing students' critical thinking and ethical decision-making skills. The District aims to cultivate AI literacy by teaching students about the responsible use of AI, helping them recognize both its benefits and challenges.

Guidelines for using AI tools

- **Responsible Use and Ethical Considerations:** Students and Staff will use generative AI tools responsibly and appropriately, to ensure that AI use does not harm themselves, others, or the learning environment. Students will also focus on applying ethical considerations in their interactions with AI, such as understanding when and how to use AI appropriately.
- **Privacy Protection:** Students and Staff will not share personal or confidential information, such as their name, birthdate, address, or other sensitive details, with an AI tool.
- **Support for Learning and Critical Thinking:** AI will be used intentionally to support learning objectives. Students will adhere to school rules and teacher instructions on when and how to use AI for assignments. Additionally, students will practice critical thinking by evaluating the accuracy and relevance of AI outputs and ensuring that the information aligns with their learning.
- **Honest Work and Reflective Learning:** Students will be honest about their use of AI for assignments, and properly cite any portion that is generated by AI. They will review AI output for mistakes and reflect on how AI tools impact their learning and development.
- **Seeking Guidance:** Students will seek guidance from their teacher if they are unsure about the acceptable use of AI.

Privacy and Security

Students should not expect privacy when using District technology. Information stored or transmitted on District systems is the property of the District and may be reviewed to ensure compliance with this policy. While the District may review stored information, it will do so in accordance with applicable privacy laws and regulations. Students shall not share their individual logins, passwords, or access to District technology with others. Students may share their logins and password information with their parents/guardians to help access and facilitate virtual instruction and learning. Personal electronic devices may be subject to search in accordance with the Student Acceptable use Policy and Student Code of Conduct.

Consequences for Violations

Students shall be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee for a violation of this Policy, depending on the severity of the violation. Such consequences may include, but are not limited to, suspension, removal to an alternative education setting, and/or expulsion. In addition, a student's privileges to use District technology resources may be restricted or revoked. The District may undertake appropriate investigations into any potential violation of this Policy by a student and may act based upon the preponderance of the evidence revealed by such an investigation. In addition to this Policy, individual schools may implement additional rules and regulations pertaining to the use of District and/or personal technology resources within their respective campuses. A school may hold any personal technology belonging to a student, subject to the applicable District and/or campus policies and procedures, in the event the student uses the technology inappropriately in violation of this Policy or of applicable campus rules. Students who violate this Policy may also be subject to potential violations of local, state, and federal law, depending on the conduct involved.

Limitation of Liability

The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the technology resources it provides to students through District provided and/or a student's personal electronic device. Families may be held financially responsible for the replacement of any lost, stolen, or damaged technology loaned to their student(s). NEISD is not responsible for any damages that a student may sustain, including those arising from non-delivery of information, erroneous delivery of information, service interruptions, unauthorized use by a student, loss of data, and any potential exposure to inappropriate material from the Internet. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the student's own risk, as the District makes no representations, and denies responsibility for, the accuracy or quality of the information. In exchange for being allowed to use District technology resources, students and their parents/guardians hereby release NEISD, its trustees, employees, and representatives from all claims for damages that arise from the intentional or neglectful misuse of the District's technology resources by the student.

In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the installation or use of TikTok (or any successor application or service) on a district device, along with any other social media application or service determined by the governor.

Acknowledgment

By using District technology resources, students and their parents/guardians acknowledge and agree to comply with this policy. They also release the District and its representatives from any claims resulting from intentional or negligent misuse of these resources.