

## **Instruction**

### **Access to Electronic Networks**

Electronic networks, including the Internet, are a part of the Joint Agreement's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The term *electronic networks* includes all the Joint Agreement's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The Joint Agreement's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), Joint Agreement-issued Wi-Fi hotspots, and any Joint Agreement servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the Joint Agreement networks or to any Joint Agreement-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. Joint Agreement-owned or Joint Agreement-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

The Joint Agreement is not responsible for any information that may be lost or damaged, or become unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved or transmitted via the Internet. Furthermore, the Joint Agreement will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

### **Curriculum and Appropriate Online Behavior**

The use of the Joint Agreement's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the Joint Agreement as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students, and (2) comply with the selection criteria for instructional materials and library resource center materials. As required by federal law, students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including but not limited to: (1) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (2) cyberbullying awareness and response. Staff members may, consistent with the Director's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

The Joint Agreement's electronic network is part of the curriculum and is not a public forum for general use.

### **Acceptable Use**

All use of the Joint Agreement's electronic networks must be: (1) in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the goals stated herein, or (2) for a legitimate school business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, or received via the Joint Agreement's electronic networks or Joint Agreement computers. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. The administrative agent district's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the Joint Agreement's Electronic Networks*, contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user's account but not erased, may be monitored or read by school officials.

### **Internet Safety**

Technology protection measures shall be used on each Joint Agreement computer with Internet access. They shall include a filtering device that protects against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by federal law and as determined by the Director or designee. The Director or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the

Director or system administrator. The Director or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following:

1. Ensure staff supervision of student access to online electronic networks,
2. Restrict student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials,
3. Ensure student and staff privacy, safety, and security when using electronic communications,
4. Restrict unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, and
5. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information, such as, names and addresses.

#### Authorization for Electronic Network Access

Each staff member must, consistent with the policies of the administrative agent district, sign an *Authorization for Access to the Joint Agreement's Electronic Networks* as a condition for using the Joint Agreement's electronic network. Each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the *Authorization* before being granted unsupervised use.

#### Confidentiality:

All users of the Joint Agreement's computers to access the Internet shall maintain the confidentiality of student records. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is loaded onto the network.

#### Violations:

The failure of any student or staff member to follow the terms of the administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the Joint Agreement's Electronic Networks*, or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. Staff disciplinary actions will be recommended to the administrative agent district for final action.

LEGAL REF.: No Child Left Behind Act, 20 U.S.C. §6777.  
Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l).  
Enhancing Education Through Technology Act, 20 U.S.C §6751 et seq.  
47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries.  
720 ILCS 5/26.5.

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

ADOPTED: September 18, 2025