

Guidelines for Technology Resource Use for Students

Purpose and Scope

Technology resources are extremely important to the operation and success of the Deerfield Community School District. The District requires all students with computer access to use the computer systems carefully and responsibly. This policy applies to all students of the Deerfield Community School District.

Technology Use

The Deerfield Community School District's technology systems, especially Internet access and email systems, promote access to information, rapid communication with families, friends, and District staff, facilitate innovative instruction and communication, and provide the ability to conduct educational research.

Technology systems, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, Internet access, hardware and all data contained herein, are District-owned, are the property of the Deerfield Community School District and are provided as tools for the educational mission of the schools. Under no circumstances should a student perform any manner of technical support or software installation on a District computer or other technology system.

Within the school setting, users of the District Computers and networks are responsible for good behavior. General school rules for behavior, communications, and use of equipment apply. System users have full responsibility for the use of their Internet and email accounts. The Deerfield Community School District students have the responsibility to report possible violations of this policy to the Deerfield Community School District administration. In addition, misuse by students may be subject to disciplinary action by school district.

Electronic Communications and Internet Use

Electronic communications systems access and use are intended for educational purposes. The District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response. Reference to this policy will be included in student handbooks and reinforced as necessary throughout the year.

1. Use must not:
 - 1.1. Involve any prohibited activity (see below).
 - 1.2. Interfere with the productivity of students and their peers.
 - 1.3. Involve large file transfers, streaming media or otherwise deplete system resources available for educationally related purposes.
2. Students should not have any expectations of privacy.

Prohibited Activities

Students are strictly prohibited from using the Deerfield Community School District's technology systems in connection with any activity deemed inappropriate by the district, including but not limited to:

- Engaging in illegal, fraudulent, or malicious activities
- Illegal distribution of copyrighted materials (see below)
- Viewing, sending, or storing material that could be considered offensive, obscene, harassing, or defamatory
- Annoying or harassing other individuals – also known as Cyber Bullying
- Sending uninvited email of a personal nature
- Using another individual's account
- Attempting to test, circumvent, or defeat security systems
- Permitting any unauthorized individual to access the district's systems
- Distributing or storing chain letters, solicitations, offers to buy or sell, or other non-educational material of a trivial or frivolous nature via individual messages and the distribution lists
- Partisan political activities and political fund-raising
- Modification of hardware on laptops, workstations, or servers except by authorized personnel
- Using or storing unapproved encryption software or software designed to circumvent security systems without written approval from the business office

Copyright

All users must adhere to the rules of copyright and intellectual property protection, and respect all copyright issues regarding software, information, and authorship. The unauthorized copying, storage, and or transfer of copyrighted materials violate federal and state laws and are strictly prohibited. (see copyright policy 771)

Damage

A user shall be personally responsible for the cost of repairing damage to technology resources, including but not limited to the replacement of equipment, when such damage is the result of the user's deliberate or negligent misuse of the technology resources.

Monitoring

The district is required to filter Internet access in accordance with the Childrens Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Internet activity may be logged. It is understood that such filters are not perfect and student access to inappropriate material is unintentional. Students should have no expectation of privacy in any computer-related activities. System maintenance or technical support activities may result in the viewing of any information residing on the Deerfield Community School District technology systems.

Parental Responsibility

Although the school district will restrict access to certain materials, there is a wide range of material available on the Internet, some of which may not fit with the values of particular families. It is not possible for the Deerfield Community School District to monitor and enforce the social values in student use of the Internet. Parents have several options in addressing this issue. They may:

- Rely on their children to self-regulate access, based upon their general upbringing of the child
- Specify to their children what content is acceptable to access
- Request that their children NOT BE GIVEN Internet access at school (this choice may make it harder for children to fulfill some assignments)

Obscenity and Harassment

Users who receive threatening or unwelcome communications should bring them to the attention of their Building Principal or District Administration immediately.

Violations

Use of the Deerfield Community School District's technology systems should be considered a privilege, not a right. The district reserves the right to revoke the privilege of technology system use from any student. Students who use the Deerfield Community School District assets, including computer systems, to engage in illegal or fraudulent activity may be subject to criminal prosecution per State Statute 943.70.