

# Lowndes County Schools Acceptable Use Agreement - Students

(Revised May 2017)

Technology is an integral part of the learning experiences in the Lowndes County Schools. Students will use these resources to acquire knowledge, to seek, evaluate, and create information, and to communicate and collaborate with others. The use of the system's computers and network is a privilege that requires each student to act responsibly. The student shall be accountable for any violations of this Acceptable Use Policy, as they would be for any other classroom disciplinary incident. A student and his/her parents shall be responsible for damages resulting from a violation of this policy and shall be liable for costs incurred for service and/or repair.

Students have no expectation of privacy in their use of and storage on the Lowndes County School System network or on any online storage solution provided by the school system. Any access from a school computer, including internet browsing and use of electronic mail, is subject to monitoring and may be visible through routine maintenance. Monitoring and maintenance may lead to the discovery that a user is violating this use policy and implementing regulation, other Lowndes County School System's policies, or the law. Such violations will be reported and appropriate action taken.

With the permission of the school administration and the classroom teacher, the student may use a personal computing device at school for instructional purposes and connect to the school wireless network. Use of this personal device will be governed by this Acceptable Use Policy. Upon reasonable suspicion that the student has violated this AUP or the Student Code of Conduct, the device may be confiscated by a staff member and examined by an administrator in accordance with local board policy and state and federal law.

## ***Bullying***

The Lowndes County Schools System has adopted policies prohibiting bullying. Students should not use personal or school-owned technology resources to threaten, harass, or intimidate others. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to

- Cyberstalking or engaging in conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at or about a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to the victim
- Cyberbullying or the willful, hostile and repeated harassment and intimidation of a person through the use of digital technologies, including, but not limited to, email, blogs, social networking websites, chat rooms, texts, and instant messaging
- The use of cameras or camera phones to take embarrassing photographs or videos of students or school employees and posting them online
- Sending abusive or threatening text messages or instant messages
- Using websites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students

Bullying and its consequences are described in the Student Code of Conduct (JCDA) and LCBOE Bullying policy (JCDAG).

## ***Notice on Web Filtering***

Lowndes County Schools will take measures to filter and monitor resources and information accessed through

its information and data systems. Although a conscious effort will be made by professionals to deter the access to materials that are inappropriate for the educational setting, no safeguard is foolproof. The user is responsible for not seeking or initiating access to inappropriate material.

## ***Expectations***

### **The student SHALL:**

- Login to the Lowndes County Schools network using his or her assigned username and password (when a username and password has been provided to the student).
- Refrain from sharing personally-identifying information such as address or phone number when posting on any wiki, blog, or other web-based tool provided by or authorized by the Lowndes County Schools, and students in grades K-5 shall not post their last name in such posts.
- Give credit for information and images found through internet research when used in a class project or paper.
- Create original images or use public domain or Creative Commons licensed images in class projects.
- Notify the teacher or media specialist if he or she inadvertently browses to an inappropriate site on the Internet.
- Use a school system-provided email account only for instructional purposes and as directed by his or her teacher (if provided with an email account by the school system).
- Ensure that any computing devices or storage media that they bring in from outside the school are virus free and do not contain any unauthorized or inappropriate files.

### **The student SHALL NOT:**

- Use the school system's computer hardware, network, or Internet link in a manner that is inconsistent with a teacher's directions and generally-accepted network etiquette.
- Seek or initiate access to inappropriate material on the internet, including (but not limited to) abusive, obscene, sexually-oriented material, or hate speech.
- Use the school computers or network for illegal activity, such as copying or downloading copyrighted software, music, or images, or for violation of copyright law.
- Purposely bring on premises or infect any school computer or network with a virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy or provide access to unauthorized data or information.
- Gain access or attempt to access unauthorized or restricted network resources or the data and documents of another person, nor will the student alter or delete the data belonging to others or to the school system.
- Use or attempt to use the password or account of another person or use a computer while logged on under another user's account.
- Use the computer of a teacher, administrator, or other staff member without permission and supervision.
- Use the school's computers or network while access privileges have been suspended.
- Alter or attempt to alter the configuration of a computer, network electronics, the operating system, or any of the software.
- Vandalize, disconnect or disassemble any network or computer component.
- Utilize the computers and network to retrieve information or run software applications not assigned by their teacher or inconsistent with school policy.
- Provide another student with user account information or passwords.
- Bring on premises any computer, disk or storage device that contains a software application or utility that could be used to alter the configuration of the operating system or network equipment, scan or probe the network, or provide access to unauthorized areas or data.
- Download, access via e-mail or file sharing, or install any unauthorized software or programs.
- Bypass or attempt to circumvent network security, virus protection, network filtering, or policies,

including the use of remote proxies or virtual private networks (VPN).

### ***Violations***

Violations of any of the provisions of this use and implementation policy will result in restricting or discontinuing a user's use of the Lowndes County Schools System's technology and may result in other disciplinary and/or legal action. For students, disciplinary action will be tailored to meet the specific violation. If the violation also involves a violation of other Lowndes County Board of Education policies or implementing regulations, including policy JCDA – Code of Student Conduct, the violation will be handled in accordance with the discipline measures recommended by that other policy or regulation. The Lowndes County Schools System will fully cooperate with local, state, and federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through the district's technology, as permitted or in compliance with federal and state laws.