



Subject: Student Internet Use and Digital Citizenship Policy

Effective Date: June 9, 2016

Approved By: Board of Directors

Policy: 5021.1

New technologies are modifying the way in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred. Those changes also alter instruction and student learning at Empire Springs ESCS (“ESCS”). ESCS offers students access to technologies that may include Internet access, electronic mail, and equipment, such as computers, tablets, or other multimedia hardware. The ESCS Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the school be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

Educational Purpose

Use of ESCS equipment, and access to the Internet via ESCS equipment and resource networks, is for the goal of pursuing educational purposes. Student and staff use of the Internet using ESCS equipment and resource networks is therefore limited to only those activities that further or enhance the delivery of education. Students and staff have a duty to use ESCS resources only in a manner specified in this Policy.

“Educational purpose” means classroom activities, research in academic subjects, career or professional development activities, ESCS approved personal research activities, or other purposes as defined by the ESCS from time to time.

“Inappropriate use” means a use that is inconsistent with an educational purpose or that is in clear violation of this policy and the Digital Citizenship Agreement.

Notice and Use

The ESCS shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of school computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities. Before a student is authorized to use the ESCS's technological resources, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Digital Citizenship Agreement. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the ESCS or any ESCS staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, user mistakes or negligence.

They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the ESCS and ESCS personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

Safety

The ESCS shall ensure that all ESCS computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to websites that have no educational purpose and/or contain visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors. However, while the ESCS is able exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the ESCS, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. The Digital Citizenship Agreement will ask parents to waive any claim that the ESCS and its staff are responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence.