

## Beal City Public Schools Administrative Guidelines

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### **7540 - COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS**

The Technology Director shall be responsible for the management of the Board's technology system and for making the arrangements for any networks which may be used to enhance the educational program and/or operations of the District.

S/He shall be responsible for implementing the guidelines established for program development (AG 2210 through AG 2252), the selection of materials and equipment (AG [2521A](#)), and the District's purchasing guidelines (AG 6320). In addition, the Principal's shall make sure that the appropriate agreement [Form 7540.04 F1](#) or [Form 7540.03 F1](#) is complete for each staff member and student who will have access to Board technology and any networks.

All tentative agreements with networks or technology agencies are to be submitted to the Superintendent for review and approval. Any agreements or contracts that exceed the policy or statutory limits for purchase of goods or services must be presented to the Board for acceptance.

It is essential that staff members and students be provided the following information concerning the use of the Internet. This can be done through written guidelines, professional development seminars, faculty and student meetings, and introductory remarks at the beginning of a course in which the Internet may be used.

- A. Use of the Internet is to be related to one or more courses of study.  
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- B. The Internet is not to be used by staff or students for discriminatory or unlawful purposes, including harassing or hazing any individual or group.  
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- C. All student use of the Internet is to be supervised by a staff member or approved volunteer who has signed the Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement Form 7540.04 F1.  
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- D. Prior to disseminating information other than directory information across the Internet about a student signed parental permission forms must be on file.  
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- E. Because of the vast amount of information that can be retrieved from the world-wide network, teachers are responsible for training students to use proper research skills when retrieving information. It is inappropriate, costly, and a waste of valuable instructional time for staff and/or students to download large quantities of information that has not been checked ahead of time for accuracy, relevancy, and probable usage. It may be helpful, therefore, for teachers to conduct some controlled exercises with students on how to differentiate between web-sites that are "attractive but superficial or irrelevant" from those that are attractive, substantive, and relevant.  
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- F. Staff members need to have back-up plans or contingency procedures in place for times when

the Internet may not be accessible. Since the Internet is primarily a data-gathering mechanism, alternative sources for needed data should be available so that students can accomplish the purpose of the instruction within the established time period.

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- G. Students and staff must not use any District provided technology including the Internet and other information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone and pager text messages or instant messaging to harass, haze, disparage, or defame any individual or group.

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- H. Student and Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreements, [Form 7540.03 F1](#) and [Form 7540.04 F1](#), that students and staff members must sign prohibits the use of the Internet for unethical purposes or to obtain information that could be considered obscene, pornographic, or unsuitable for children. If a question of interpretation arises concerning the definition of these terms, the building principal shall have the authority to determine whether the web site is appropriate. Prior to accessing or allowing access to information that the staff member is unsure about, s/he should consult with the principal.

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- I. It is essential that the Student and Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreements, [Form 7540.03 F1](#) and [Form 7540.04 F1](#), address the issue of the proprietary rights related to web site design concerning web sites and/or pages hosted on the Board's servers.

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Students shall be advised as to appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response. Issues such as sending personal information, pictures, text or other material with sexual content (sexting), shall be addressed with students.

Staff shall only use e-mail, texting, instant messaging, social networking, chat rooms or similar types of communications for school related purposes. Such school related purposes must be done on the District's networks and supplied equipment, to assure appropriate contacts. Excessive contact with students without any clear educational purpose is prohibited, unless there is a family or other legitimate relationship justifying the amount and nature of the content.

Revised 10/04

Revised 6/4/10

## Beal City Public Schools Bylaws & Policies

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### **7540.04 - STAFF NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY**

Advances in telecommunications and other related technologies have fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in our society. Such changes are driving the need for educators to adapt their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to harness and utilize the vast, diverse, and unique resources available on the Internet. The Board of Education is pleased to provide Internet service to its staff. The Board encourages staff to

utilize the Internet in order to promote educational excellence in our schools by providing them with the opportunity to develop the resource sharing, innovation, and communication skills and tools which will be essential to life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Board encourages the faculty to develop the appropriate skills necessary to effectively access, analyze, evaluate, and utilize these resources. The instructional use of the Internet will be guided by the Board's policy on Instructional Materials.

The District's Internet system has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The Board has the right to place restrictions on its use to assure that use of the District's Internet system is in accord with its limited educational purpose. Staff use of the District's computers, network, and Internet services (Network) will be governed by this policy and the related administrative guidelines, and any applicable employment contracts and collective bargaining agreements. The due process rights of all users will be respected in the event there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of the Network. Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using the Network including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity while on the Network.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting computers and users in the District with computers and users worldwide. Access to the Internet enables staff members to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards, while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. Access to such an incredible quantity of information and resources brings with it, however, certain unique challenges and responsibilities.

First, and foremost, the Board may not be able to technologically limit access to services through the Board's Internet connection to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, will open classrooms and students to electronic information resources which have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures which block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. The Board utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of staff members to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors.

The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using the Network, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act. Any staff member who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The Superintendent or Technology Director may disable the technology protection measure to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

The Superintendent is directed to prepare guidelines which address students' safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communication, and prohibit disclosure of personal identification information of minors and unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking"), cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by minors online. Staff members are reminded that personally identifiable student information is confidential and may not be disclosed without prior written parental permission.

Building principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines. The Board expects that staff members

will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of the Internet. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. All Internet users are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Staff members are responsible for good behavior on Board's computers/network and the Internet just as they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not sanction any use of the Internet that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines. Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users granted access to the Internet through the Board's computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for uses of the Internet not authorized by this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

The Board designates the Superintendent and principal as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying guidelines as they apply to the use of the Network and the Internet for instructional purposes.

P.L. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000

P.L. 110-385, Title II, Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

18 U.S.C. 1460

18 U.S.C. 2246

18 U.S.C. 2256

20 U.S.C. 6777, 9134 (2003)

20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965,  
as amended (2003)

47 U.S.C. 254(h), (1), Communications Act of 1934, as amended (2003)

Adopted 12/17/01

Revised 2/22/10

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#### STAFF NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY AGREEMENT

To access e-mail and/or the Internet at school, staff members must sign and return this form.

**Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The Board's Internet connection is provided for business and educational purposes only. Unauthorized or inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.**

The Board has implemented technology protection measures which block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of staff members in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. ( ) The Superintendent or \_\_\_\_\_ may disable the technology protection measure to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Staff members accessing the Internet through the Board's computers/network assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.

The Board reserves the right to monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board's computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

( ) To the extent that proprietary rights in the design of a web site hosted on the Board's servers would vest in a staff member upon creation, the staff member agrees to license the use of the web site by the Board without further compensation.

**Please complete the following information:**

Staff Member's Full Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and agree to abide by the Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines. I understand that any violation of the terms and conditions set forth in the Policy is inappropriate and may constitute a criminal offense. As a user of the Board's computers/network and the Internet, I agree to communicate over the Internet and the Network in an appropriate manner, honoring all relevant laws, restrictions and guidelines.

Staff Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Superintendent is responsible for determining what is unauthorized or inappropriate use. The Superintendent may deny, revoke or suspend access to the Network/Internet to individuals who violate the Board's Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and related Guidelines and take such other disciplinary action as is appropriate pursuant to the applicable collective bargaining agreement and/or Board Policy.**