

The Board of Education is committed to

- a. Preventing users from accessing or transmitting over its computer network inappropriate material via the Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
- b. Preventing unauthorized or unlawful online activity;
- c. Preventing unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and
- d. Complying with the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

In making this provision and to the extent practical, it is the responsibility of the Columbia County Board of Education to provide and enforce a policy of Internet safety that includes measures to block or filter for both minors and adults Internet access to certain visual depictions. These include visual depictions that are:

1. Obscene as defined in O.C.G.A. 16-12-80(b);
2. Child pornography as defined in 18 U.S.C. SEC. 2256; and
3. Harmful to minors as defined in 47 U.S.C. SEC. 254(h)(7).

Under Federal law, the term “minor” is defined as “an individual who has not attained the age of 17 years” (pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)) and “any person under the age of eighteen years” (pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2256). For the purposes of this policy and its procedure, however, the term “minor” shall apply to any student properly attending a school within the Columbia County School District.

The School District has adopted and implemented Internet safety and responsible use procedures addressing the following:

1. Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web.
2. The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.
3. Age-appropriate instruction for students regarding safe and appropriate online behavior, including acceptable behaviors when interacting with others on social networking sites and in chat rooms; behaviors which may constitute cyber bullying; and proper responses to cyber bullying.
4. Unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities by minors online.
5. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
6. Measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials harmful to them.
7. Responsible use by School District employees of social media sites, including but not limited to, acceptable behaviors related to interacting with students.

An authorized person(s) designated by the superintendent may disable the blocking or filtering measure during any use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

As much as is practical, it shall be the responsibility of all members of the Columbia County School District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet protection Act.

PROCEDURE: YES

ADOPTED: 03/24/98

REVISED: 8/10/99, 1/22/02, 12/13/11, 7/10/12, 10/8/13, 7/11/17

Columbia County Board of Education