

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation

Bylaws & Policies

7540 – TECHNOLOGY

The School Board is committed to the effective use of technology to both enhance the quality of student learning and the efficiency of Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation operations.

Students' use of Corporation Technology Resources is a privilege, not a right. As a prerequisite, students and their parents must sign and submit a *Responsible Use of Student Technology* form annually (see also, Policy 7540.03).

The Superintendent or designee shall develop, recommend for approval by the Board, and implement a written Corporation Technology Plan (CTP). One of the primary purposes of the CTP is to evaluate new and emerging technologies and how these technologies will play a role in student achievement and success and/or efficient and effective Corporation operations.

The Board will financially support, as the budget permits, the CTP, including recommendations to provide new and developing technology for students and staff.

The CTP shall state the procedures for the proper acquisition of technology. The CTP also shall provide guidance to staff and students about making safe, appropriate, and ethical use of Corporation Technology Resources, as well as inform both staff and students about disciplinary actions that will be taken if its Technology Resources are abused in any way or used in an inappropriate, illegal, or unethical manner. See policy 7540.03 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, and Policy 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety.

The Chief Technology Officer shall review the CTP and report any changes, amendments, or revisions to the Board.

This policy, along with the Student and Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety policies and the Student Code of Conduct, further govern students' and staff members' use of the personal communication devices (see Policy 5136 and 7530.02). Users have no right or expectations of privacy when using Corporation Technology Resources (including but not limited to privacy in the content of the personal files, emails, and records of their online activity when using the Corporation's computer network and/or Internet connection).

Further safeguards shall be established so that the Board's investment in both hardware and software achieves the benefits of technology and inhibits negative side effects. Accordingly, students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior including, but not limited to: using social media to interact with others online; interacting with other individuals in chat rooms or on blogs; and, recognizing what constitutes cyber-bullying, understanding cyber-bullying is a violation of Board policy, and learning appropriate responses if they experience cyber bullying.

For purposes of this policy, social media is defined as Internet-based applications that facilitate communication (e.g., interactive/two-way conversation/dialogue) and networking between individuals or

groups. Social media is “essentially a category of online media where people are talking, participating, sharing, networking, and bookmarking online. Most social media services encourage discussion, feedback, voting, comments, and sharing of information from all interested parties.” [Quote from Ron Jones of Search Engine Watch] Social media provides a way for people to stay “connected or linked to other sites, resources, and people.” Examples include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, webmail, text messaging, chat, blogs, and instant messaging (IM). Social media does not include sending or receiving email through the use of Corporation-issued email accounts.

Staff may use social media for Corporation business-related purposes. Authorized staff may use Corporation Technology Resources to access and use social media to increase awareness of Corporation programs and activities, as well as to promote achievements of staff and students, provided the Superintendent approves, in advance, such access and use. Use of social media for business-related purposes is subject to Indiana’s public records laws and staff members are responsible for archiving their social media and complying with the Corporation’s record retention schedule. See Policy 8310 - Public Records.

Instructional staff and their students may use Corporation Technology Resources to access and use social media for educational purposes, provided the principal approves.

Students shall comply with Policy 7540.03 and Policy 5136 when using Corporation Technology Resources to access and/or use social media. Similarly, staff shall comply with Policy 7540.04 and Policy 7530.02 when using Corporation Technology Resources to access and/or use social media.

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