

South Jefferson CSD Policy

Internet Safety and protection against Cyberbullying

The South Jefferson CSD recognizes that content posted on the Internet can have great educational value. It also understands that there exists content on the Internet with no redeeming educational or social value that could potentially be accessed by students without protections in place.

The South Jefferson CSD has developed policies and curriculum to specifically address the Acceptable Use of Computer Technologies, Internet Safety and Cyberbullying in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA), and Dignity for All Students Act (S.1987B) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). Information contained in this document serves as a reference for those policies and procedures specifically related to Internet Safety and Cyberbullying.

Internet Safety and Filtering

Access to the Internet content using South Jefferson CSD computer equipment is subject to the following regulations and restrictions:

1. Filtering technologies will be used on all district owned internet accessible devices to block access (minors and adults) to:

- Visual depictions that are (a) obscene, (b) child pornography, or (c) harmful to minors.
See Appendix for definition of terms.

- Internet sites which, in the Board's determination, contain material which is "inappropriate for minors."

The IT department will provide filtering categories upon request.

The Board will (from time to time) determine by resolution what Internet material is "inappropriate for minors" in the South Jefferson CSD. This determination will be based on community standards.

The Superintendent or his/her designee may disable filtering to access blocked sites for bona-fide research or other lawful purposes.

2. Electronic communications and collaboration have become essential to the educational process but will be restricted and monitored and must be educational in purpose.

- Only students in grades 7-12 will have access to a school hosted email account that is monitored and restricted by the IT department.
- Online digital resources that require student collaboration will be restricted and monitored by the classroom teacher.

Unauthorized access or attempts to gain unauthorized access to computers, computer systems, software or electronic communications using the South Jefferson CSD computer network, including its access to the Internet, is strictly prohibited. It is also a violation of this policy to damage, disable or otherwise interfere with the operation of computers, computer systems, software or related equipment through physical action or by electronic means.

Unauthorized disclosure or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors without prior authorization is strictly prohibited. Personally identifiable information concerning minors may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without close supervision and the permission of a parent or guardian. If a student is 18 or over, the permission may also come from the student himself/herself.

Cyberbullying

This Code of Conduct is adopted by the Board of Education of the South Jefferson Central School and is required by Project SAVE and § 100.2(1) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. It defines the District's expectations for conduct on District Property and at District Functions on or off school property. It also identifies the range of penalties for unacceptable conduct. Unless otherwise indicated, this Code applies to the conduct of students, employees, student's parents/guardians and other visitors on District Property, at a District Function, or that otherwise affects the District's educational program, mission, vision, and goals. Section 6 of the district Code of Conduct defines and addresses specific acts of misconduct and #17D of said section specifically addresses Cyberbullying.

17. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Hazing/Discrimination of Students or Staff Members- The District adheres to the Dignity for All Students Act (S.1987B) and prohibits all forms of sexual harassment, homosexual harassment, racial, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender identity, weight, body image, harassment, and disability-related violations of students' or staff members' rights. Behaviors prohibited include, but not limited to:

- A. Threatening, stalking, or seeking to coerce or compel a person to do something.
- B. Intentionally placing or attempting to place another person in fear of imminent physical injury.
- C. Engaging in verbal or physical conduct that threatens another with harm, including intimidation through the use of epithets or slurs involving race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, religious practices, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability that substantially disrupts the educational process.
- D. Cyberbullying which using technology tools to threaten, ridicule, humiliate, taunt, and spread rumors about their targets that impacts the school climate and morale.***
- E. The creation of a hostile environment by conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would unreasonably interfere with educational performance, opportunities, benefits or physical or emotional well-being or cause fear for physical safety.
- F. Prohibits discrimination based on an individual's actual or perceived race, color, weight, body image, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

Regulations and Dissemination

The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement regulations consistent with this policy. The Superintendent will also be responsible for disseminating the policy and associated regulations to school personnel and students.

Appendix A

Generally speaking, "**obscenity**" is defined as any work that an average person (applying contemporary community standards) would find, taken as a whole, appeals to a prurient interest. The work also must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct as specifically defined in state law. Moreover, the work, taken as a whole, has to lack serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value (See 18 U.S.C. §1460 and the cases interpreting that statute.)

"**Child pornography**" is defined as:

...any visual depiction, including a photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where (a) the production of visual depiction involves the use of a minor [someone under the age of 18] engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (b) such visual depiction is or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (c) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to

appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or (d) such visual depiction is advertised, promoted, presented, described or distributed in such manner that conveys the impression that the material is or contains a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. (18 U.S.C. §2256[8]).

The phrase “**harmful to minors**” is defined as:

... any picture, image, graphic image, file, or other visual depiction that (a) taken as whole and with respect to minors [defined here as anyone under the age of 17], appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion; (b) depicts, describes, or presents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors. (Public Law 106-554, §1703{b}{2}.)

The phrase “**matter/material inappropriate for minors**” must be defined by a determination by the Board applying local community standards. (Public Law 106-554, §1732[1][2].)