

Guidelines for Technology Resource Use for Students

Purpose and Scope

Technology resources are extremely important to the operation and success of the Deerfield Community School District. The District requires all students with computer access to use the computer systems carefully and responsibly. This policy applies to all students of the Deerfield Community School District.

Technology Use

The Deerfield Community School District's technology systems, especially Internet access and email systems, promote access to information, rapid communication with families, friends, and District staff, facilitate innovative instruction and communication, and provide the ability to conduct educational research.

Technology systems, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, Internet access, hardware and all data contained herein, are District-owned, are the property of the Deerfield Community School District and are provided as tools for the educational mission of the schools. Under no circumstances should a student perform any manner of technical support or software installation on a District computer or other technology system.

Electronic Communications and Internet Use

Electronic communications systems access and use are intended for educational purposes. However, the Deerfield Community School District permits its students occasional academic use of its email and incidental personal use of its Internet systems subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

1. Use must not:
 - 1.1. Involve any prohibited activity (see below).
 - 1.2. Interfere with the productivity of students and their peers.
 - 1.3. Consume system resources or storage capacity on an ongoing basis.
 - 1.4. Involve large file transfers, streaming media or otherwise deplete system resources available for educationally related purposes.
2. Students should not have any expectations of privacy. Because email is not private, students should avoid sending personal messages that are sensitive or confidential.
3. Academic email communications should not give the impression that they are representing, giving opinions, or otherwise making statements on behalf of the District. Where appropriate, a disclaimer should be included. An appropriate disclaimer is: "These statements are my own, not those of the Deerfield Community School District."

Prohibited Activities

Students are strictly prohibited from using the Deerfield Community School District's technology systems in connection with any activity deemed inappropriate by the district, including but not limited to:

- Engaging in illegal, fraudulent, or malicious activities
- Illegal distribution of copyrighted materials (see below)
- Viewing, sending, or storing material that could be considered offensive, obscene, harassing, or defamatory
- Annoying or harassing other individuals
- Sending uninvited email of a personal nature
- Using another individual's account
- Attempting to test, circumvent, or defeat security systems
- Permitting any unauthorized individual to access the district's systems
- Distributing or storing chain letters, solicitations, offers to buy or sell, or other non-educational material of a trivial or frivolous nature via individual messages and the distribution lists
- Partisan political activities and political fund-raising
- Modification of hardware on laptops, workstations, or servers except by authorized personnel
- Using or storing unapproved encryption software or software designed to circumvent security systems without written approval from the business office
- Listening/viewing internet based radio/video

Copyright

All users must adhere to the rules of copyright and intellectual property protection, and respect all copyright issues regarding software, information, and authorship. The unauthorized copying, storage, and or transfer of copyrighted materials violate federal and state laws and are strictly prohibited.

Software Use

Students are not authorized to install software. Unauthorized software can make a machine inoperable, cause network conflicts, spread computer viruses, and take up valuable computer space.

Only software purchased by, licensed to, or approved by the Deerfield Community School District may be used on District computers. Use of licensed software must conform to the terms of the agreement.

Malicious Code (Viruses), etc.

Computer viruses are one of the most common threats from the Internet or other electronic communications. Students may unknowingly expose their computer or the network to these problems when downloading information from these systems. All files downloaded from the Internet, received from email outside the district or brought in on transportable media should be scanned for malicious code using anti-virus software.

Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance of the Deerfield Community School District networks or any other computer system or network system by spreading viruses constitutes criminal activity under state and federal law.

The District reserves the right to remove any information and files to protect itself from malicious code.

Damage

A user shall be personally responsible for the cost of repairing damage to technology resources, including but not limited to the replacement of equipment, when such damage is the result of the user's deliberate or negligent misuse of the technology resources.

Monitoring

The district is required to filter Internet access and Internet activity may be logged. Students should have no expectation of privacy in any computer-related activities. System maintenance or technical support activities may result in the viewing of any information residing on the Deerfield Community School District technology systems.

Parental Responsibility

Although the school district will restrict access to certain materials, there is a wide range of material available on the Internet, some of which may not fit with the values of particular families. It is not possible for the Deerfield Community School District to monitor and enforce the social values in student use of the Internet. Parents have several options in addressing this issue. They may:

- Rely on their children to self-regulate access, based upon their general upbringing of the child
- Specify to their children what content is acceptable to access
- Request that their children NOT BE GIVEN Internet access at school (this choice may make it harder for children to fulfill some assignments)

Obscenity and Harassment

Users who receive threatening or unwelcome communications should bring them to the attention of their Building Principal or District Administration immediately.

Violations

The Deerfield Community School District reserves the right to revoke the privilege of technology system use from any student. Students who use the Deerfield Community School District assets, including computer systems, to engage in illegal or fraudulent activity may be subject to criminal prosecution. State Statute 943.70 makes it a crime to modify, access or destroy data or computer programs without authorization. The offense may be considered a felony which carries a penalty of \$25,000 or imprisonment not to exceed twelve and one-half years, or both.

System users have full responsibility for the use of their Internet and email accounts. The Deerfield Community School District students have the responsibility to report possible violations of this policy to the Deerfield Community School District administration. In addition, misuse by students may be subject to disciplinary action by school district