

**ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE USE
OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

This policy enables the superintendent to establish guidelines for what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable use of the Gilmer County School System's technology resources in accordance with state and federal law and the Georgia Board of Education Regulations and Policies. Any user of Gilmer County School System Technology Resources, including students, staff, authorized users and unauthorized users, acknowledge that the Technology Resources belong to the Gilmer County School System and by their use, authorized or unauthorized, the user consents to monitoring by the Gilmer County School System and acknowledges there is no expectation of privacy. Any user of the Gilmer County School System Technology Resources waives any expectation of privacy and consents to monitoring by the Gilmer County School System in order to insure compliance with Board policy, state and federal law. It shall also be the policy of the Gilmer County Board of Education that the school district shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computer belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying "technology protection measure," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(1) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000; and
2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of user and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in Section 1703(b)(1) and (2) of the Children's Protection Act of 2000, (iv) and further prohibits uses not consistent with the missions of the Gilmer County Board of Education, Board policy, local, state or federal law. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to:
 - a. Provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;
 - b. Promote the safety and security of minors by providing to students age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking sites, in email and in chat rooms; behaviors that may constitute cyber bullying; and how to respond when subjected to cyber bullying;
 - c. Prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unauthorized activities by minors online;

- d. Prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
- e. Restrict minors' access to materials "harmful to minors," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000.

3. It shall be a violation of Board policy for any user, whether student, employee, authorized user or unauthorized user to use Gilmer County School System Technology Resources in violation of the mission of the Gilmer County School District, Board policy, local, state or federal law. All Gilmer County School System Technology Resources shall belong to the Gilmer County Board of Education, including any content, formula, or derivative byproduct created by the use of such resources. The Board hereby prohibits the creation, use or dissemination of materials violative of Board policy, local, state or federal law by means of Gilmer County School System Technology Resources.

INTERNET SAFETY:

In order to promote the safety and security of students when accessing the Internet and any online communication programs, the school district will provide age-appropriate education regarding appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response. At all grade levels, this shall consist of instruction in the computer lab setting. In addition, at the elementary level, special group sessions with the counselor and school resource officer will be provided. At the middle school level, group sessions with the counselor and resource officer will address this topic, and classroom instruction in business/health education will focus on required state standards regarding Internet and general safety. At the high school level, all students shall complete a required computer course that addresses these issues, and student advisement sessions will address appropriate online behavior and response.

DISCLAIMER:

The Gilmer County School System makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Gilmer County School System is committed to providing trouble-free access to the Internet but cannot be held liable for any lost, damaged, or unavailable information due to any technical difficulties that may arise. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. Fees and other charges incurred in violation of policy will be the responsibility of the user. The Gilmer County School System specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of any information obtained through these services.