

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

POLICY

No. E3

Adopted: May 28, 2008
Amended: May 21, 2014
Amended: May 22, 2019
Amended April 28, 2021
Reviewed: February 28, 2024

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND USE

Preamble:

The Board of Education encourages the use of technology to support education by providing users with access to the unique resources within the School District as well as those available on the Internet. The term “technology” refers to the use of School District computers, peripherals, services, and Internet access as well as the use of personal devices on school property during school hours and while engaged in school-related activities. Policy and Regulations pertain to the use of the technology services and resources by all students, staff, volunteers, or guests.

The Board acknowledges the need to protect the integrity of school and working environments and to ensure the safety, security and privacy of students, staff and other users.

Policy:

The Board encourages the acceptable, ethical, responsible and legal use of technology to enhance communications and learning in schools and to conduct District business. The information technology resources provided by the District are intended for teaching, learning and administrative purposes. The Board supports access by students to District information technology resources as well as the use of personal electronic devices for education enrichment and the development by staff and students of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources.

The use of technology will be consistent with this policy and other District policies including the Respectful Workplace Policy, school rules and codes of conduct, the *School Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

REGULATIONS

No. E3

Adopted: May 28, 2008
Amended: February 22, 2012
Amended: May 21, 2014
Amended: May 22, 2019
Amended: April 28, 2020
Reviewed: February 28, 2024
Revised: May 31, 2024

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND USE

1. Use of District technology resources shall be for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information for education and research purposes.
2. Technology users shall not record, film, transmit, download, or access information where the message or its distribution would violate any applicable law or regulation. The information shall not pertain to the preparation, assembly, use, and/or distribution of explosives/weapons of all types, or be obscene, pornographic, abusive, discriminatory, violent, defamatory, racial, intimidating, or related to gambling, or otherwise likely to be of an offensive nature.
3. Transmitting, downloading or accessing any of the above will result in discipline as reflected in District and/or school policies. Specifically, where violent, intimidating or explosives/weapons-related material is transmitted, downloaded or accessed, the Weapons, Violence, and Intimidation Policy will apply.
4. Technology users shall promote efficient use of the public networks to minimize, and avoid if possible, congestion of the networks and interference with the work of other network users. Further, technology users shall respect the rights and property of others and shall not improperly access, misappropriate or misuse the information or files of other users.
5. District technology shall not be used for commercial or entrepreneurial purposes. Advertising of commercial or entrepreneurial offerings is forbidden.
6. Online security, be it on the internet or intranet, is a high priority. No one may use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with internet or email systems may be denied access to technology resources.

7. Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in further legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet or other networks connected to the District. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses or malware.
8. Downloading of copyrighted/unlicensed music, or any peer-to-peer sharing, is strictly prohibited. In addition, all users must be familiar with copyright laws and ensure any information utilized is done in a manner consistent with copyright legislation.
9. Interpretation, application and modification of this Acceptable Use Policy shall be within the sole discretion of School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen).
10. Users/parent/guardian must complete and sign the School District No. 53 [Computer & Network Access Release Form.](#)

Student Use of Personal Digital Devices in Schools

School District 53 Code of Conduct Restrictions for Personal Digital Device Use

Secondary Schools

To promote online safety and ensure focused learning environments, the use of personal digital devices will be restricted during school time. If personal digital devices are brought to school, students must keep them turned off and stored away (not on their person) during class time (bell to bell for that class period) unless instructed otherwise by their teacher. Electronic devices can be a distraction from learning, and the foundational purpose of the classroom environment is for students to maximize their education. In the instance of a teacher permitting the use of a personal device, it must be directly related to the learning intentions for that class, or for specific purposes related to a student's medical, health, or accessibility needs. If these devices are observed to be used inappropriately, students may lose the privilege of bringing them. It is the staff's goal to teach digital citizenship skills (the appropriate and responsible use of electronic devices).

Elementary Schools

To promote online safety and ensure focused learning environments, the use of personal digital devices will be restricted when students are at school. Students may not use cell phones or personal electronic devices at school during school hours, including recess and lunchtime, unless used in the classroom for educational or medical purposes – approved by the teacher or designate. If students are found using these devices for any other purposes, they will be asked to put them away and then the devices will be potentially confiscated and kept at the office until the end of the school day for repeat offences. Further offences may require calling parents to collect the device from the office. Teaching digital citizenship, when it is appropriate to use phones and devices is the ultimate goal at school.