



POLICY P.100.IT

TITLE: APPROPRIATE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Date Authorized: 21 November 2001

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Last Reviewed: XXXXX

COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EQUITY

The Board recognizes its responsibility to ensure that this policy and associated procedures promote and protect Indigenous rights, human rights, and equity, The Board will strive to address and eliminate racism and structural and systemic barriers for students, staff, and the community.

1.0 OBJECTIVE-RATIONALE

To govern the appropriate use of information technology in the OCDSB Community.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Please refer to Appendix A for a list of definitions of terms used in this policy.

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1 The Board recognizes that the responsible use of Information Technology can:

- a) support learning;
- b) advance human rights, equity, and inclusion;
- c) promote staff and student development and well-being;
- d) support communication with OCDSB Community members; and
- e) advance other core administrative and operational functions of the District.

3.2 The District supports and encourages the responsible use of Information Technology through the following nine principles of Digital Citizenship:

- a) Digital Access: Equity of access is essential to the effective use of technology in the OCDSB Environment.

- b) Digital Commerce: Technology provides opportunities for Users to be fair and informed participants in commercial pursuits. Appropriate tools and safeguards should be used to facilitate any financial transactions in the digital space.
- c) Digital Communication: When engaging in digital communication, Users should consider the appropriateness of their chosen content and medium for a professional and/or educational setting.
- d) Digital Fluency: Users who are digitally fluent are able to effectively and ethically interpret information, discover meaning, design content, construct knowledge, and communicate ideas in a digitally connected world.
- e) Digital Etiquette: Users should be aware of how their technology use affects others, and be conscientious of time, method, and context when engaging with technology.
- f) Digital Law: Users are accountable for their own digital conduct, and must engage with technology in a legal, ethical, and respectful manner.
- g) Digital Rights and Responsibilities: All Users are afforded the same rights in a digital environment. Being provided with opportunities also means demonstrating ethical behaviour online and reporting potential problems.
- h) Digital Health and Well-being: Long-term technology use can have physical and psychological impacts which should guide the frequency and duration of use.
- i) Digital Security and Privacy: All users should understand how to safeguard sensitive or personal information while online for the protection of themselves and others.

3.3 The Board believes a positive and healthy digital work and learning space is supported by User adherence to this policy and the accompanying procedures.

4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

Scope and Application

- 4.1 This policy applies to all Users while in the OCDSB Environment. Personal use of Information Technology is permitted as a privilege subject to the expectations of this policy.
- 4.2 All use of Information Technology shall support student learning and well-being and employee professional duties and development in compliance with all federal and provincial laws and regulations.

Responsibilities

- 4.3 All Users are responsible for:
 - a) ensuring that Information Technology is used in accordance with Board policies and procedures;

- b) using Information Technology in a responsible and ethical manner consistent with the purposes for which it is provided; and
 - c) reporting any and all potential security incidents and privacy breaches to the appropriate District staff.
- 4.4 Users who are Supervisors are responsible for supporting, instructing, and modeling the appropriate use of Information Technology, including the application of strategies to minimize expectations for the use of Information Technology outside of work hours.
- 4.5 Users who are Educators are responsible for supervising student use of Information Technology and guiding and preparing students to make appropriate choices when online.
- 4.6 All Users who are not employees of the District, including parents/guardians/caregivers, who apply for access to any of the District's Information Technology and services are responsible for:
- a) agreeing in writing to abide by this policy and accompanying District procedures before access is granted.

Equitable Access to Technology to Support Learning

- 4.7 The District shall make every reasonable effort to provide students with equitable access to any Information Technology needed in order to fully access: (a) the curriculum; (b) any learning activities outside the instructional day; and/or (c) remote learning.

Safe Digital Spaces

- 4.8 The District shall take active measures to ensure Supervisors and educators are aware of the unique potential for bias in technology and to ensure digital materials support culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy.
- 4.9 Users shall create, promote, and/or engage in digital spaces that are healthy, respectful, and free from hate speech/imagery, racism, oppression, or cultural appropriation, and are authentic spaces for all communities.
- 4.10 All members of the OCDSB Community shall refrain from recording, taking, or sharing non-consensual recordings or photos of other members of the OCDSB community.
- 4.11 The District shall restrict access to social media platforms on school networks and devices and may identify circumstances where students may use social media for educational purposes.

Access to Technology

- 4.12 The District maintains the right to monitor the use of technology to ensure the efficient, ethical, and legal use of Information Technology.
- 4.13 The use of Information Technology is for business purposes and is subject to rules established in this policy. The District may access accounts and information for any of the following legitimate purposes, which may include:

- a) collecting data to assist in the effective operation and monitoring of technology;
- b) performing system maintenance and repair;
- c) investigating system misuse;
- d) proactively monitoring and auditing for System misuse;
- e) complying with a legal obligation;
- f) supporting work continuity; and
- g) conducting research.

Individuals accessing Information Technology for personal use should be aware of the provisions of this policy and have no expectation of privacy.

- 4.14 The District reserves the right to restrict access to:
- a) the use of Personal Mobile Devices during instructional time; and
 - b) Information Technology and to moderate content, in accordance with appropriate authorization, where the User has been non-compliant with the provisions of this policy and/or the security, privacy, or reputation of the District staff or students is at risk.

Restrictions on the Use of Personal Mobile Devices

- 4.15 The use of Personal Mobile Devices at school is restricted in accordance with the following minimum standards:
- a) For grades 6 and below, the use of students' Personal Mobile Devices is prohibited throughout the instructional day, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator; and/or
 - b) For grades 7 to 12, the use of students' Personal Mobile Devices is prohibited during instructional time, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator.
- 4.16 Exceptions to restrictions on the use of Personal Mobile Devices must include the following:
- a) for educational purposes, as directed by an Educator;
 - b) for health and medical purposes;
 - c) to support special education needs; and
 - d) as an Accommodation to prevent Discrimination on a Protected Ground.
- 4.17 The principal, in consultation with the school community, shall establish practices for the use of Personal Mobile Devices at school based on the requirements above.

Managing Content

- 4.18 The content of all District websites and social media platforms shall be developed in accordance with the support and guidance of the Communications Department.
- 4.19 Users are responsible for their conduct and communication on Social Media and online platforms.
- 4.20 The District is not responsible or liable for external comments and/or content posted on its Social Media accounts.

Accountability

- 4.21 Where there is reason to believe that technology has been used in the District's working or learning environment in a manner that contravenes this or any District policy or procedure, or provincial or federal law, the use will result in an investigation and necessary action will be taken where appropriate and in accordance with relevant district policies, procedures, codes of conduct and/or employment contracts.
- 4.22 Information stored on ~~personally owned devices~~ Personal Mobile Devices is the responsibility of the device owner/user. However, ~~personally owned devices~~ Personal Mobile Devices used on District property for displaying, storing, sending, or creating fraudulent, harassing, sexually explicit, profane, obscene, intimidating, defamatory, racist, hateful, or other potentially unlawful materials may result in investigation and/or disciplinary action including police involvement where required.
- 4.23 The Director of Education is authorized to issue such procedures as may be necessary to implement this policy.

5.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A: Policy Definitions

6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

[The Education Act, as amended, Section 170](#)

[Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act\(MFIPPA\)](#)

[Criminal Code](#)

[Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memoranda \(PPM\) 128](#)

[Human Rights Code, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.19](#)

[Copyright Act](#)

[Trademarks Act](#)

[OCDSB Indigenous, Equity, and Human Rights Roadmap](#)

[~~POLICY P.049.IT Electronic Communications Systems~~](#)

[POLICY P.074.IT Information Technology Security](#)

[POLICY P.096.SES Special Education Programs And Services](#)

[POLICY P.098.CUR Equity And Inclusive Education](#)

[POLICY P.125.SCO School District Code Of Conduct](#)

[PROCEDURE PR.618.CUR Antiracism And Ethnocultural Equity](#)
[PROCEDURE PR.672.IT Electronic Communication Systems](#)
[PROCEDURE PR.564.IT Computer Network Security](#)
[PROCEDURE PR.622.IT Appropriate Use Of Technology](#)
[PROCEDURE PR.659.SCO Bullying Prevention And Intervention](#)
[PROCEDURE PR.685.IT Mobile Devices](#)
[PROCEDURE PR.587.SES Student Specialized Equipment Purchased With Ministry Special Equipment Amount \(SEA\) Funding](#)
[Policy/Program Memorandum 128 - The provincial code of conduct and school board codes of conduct](#)
[Ontario College Of Teachers, Professional Advisory: Use Of Electronic Communication And Social Media \(2017\)](#)
[College of Early Childhood Educators, Practice Note: Using Social Media \(2019\)](#)
[College of Psychologists of Ontario, Social Media Terms of Use](#)
[ISTE's 5 Competencies for Digital Citizenship](#)
[The ISTE Standards](#)
[M. Ribble, "Digital Citizenship: Using Technology Appropriately"](#)

APPENDIX A: POLICY DEFINITIONS

In this policy,

Board means the Board of Trustees.

Digital Assets means any form of information received, created, or gathered on behalf of the OCDSB in the course of District business.

Digital Citizenship means the norms of appropriate and responsible behaviour with regard to the use of Information Technology.

District means Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

Information Technology means a computer, phone, tablet, printer, photocopier, hard drive, or other device, software, or network owned or operated by the District that stores, transmits, or provides access to information, including personal or sensitive information.

OCDSB Community means employees, students, parents, guardians, trustees, committee members, school council members, caregivers, permit holders, vendors, service providers, contractors, volunteers, visitors, and all other persons learning, working, or accessing services in the OCDSB environment.

OCDSB Environment means school board property, events and activities whether in-person or online including schools, offices, school buses, childcare and extended day programs, work or school authorized events or activities, social media or online activity or other circumstances that may have an impact on the school or work climate.

Personal Mobile Device means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the Internet, such as a cellphone, tablet, laptop, or smartwatch.

Social Media means websites and/or applications that enable Users to create and share content and/or to participate in social networking.

Supervisor means superintendents, principals, vice-principals, and managers.

User means any member of the OCDSB Community using personal or District Information Technology within the OCDSB Environment.