



DAUPHIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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Dauphin County Technical School DCTS.POLICY 815.Acceptable Use Policy

Student Information

Student Name

Student Number

Grade Level

DCTS.POLICY 815. Acceptable Use Policy Overview

****For more information or to see the full acceptable use policy visit www.dcts.org/joc****

Purpose and Guidelines for Technology Usage at Dauphin County Technical School

The Joint Operating Committee facilitates the integration of technology resources to enhance learning, teaching, and operational efficiency at Dauphin County Technical School (DCTS). This Acceptable Use Policy delineates the rules and expectations governing the utilization of DCTS technology assets, encompassing computers, Internet access, and digital services.

Definitions

Child pornography is defined under federal and state statutes:

- Under federal law, it includes any depiction involving minors in sexually explicit conduct.
- Under state law, it pertains to materials portraying minors engaged in prohibited sexual acts or simulations thereof.

Digital technology encompasses all forms of digital tools provided, leased, or accessed through DCTS, such as computers, networks, and online platforms.

Harmful to minors is delineated by federal and state laws, addressing material deemed inappropriate for minors based on prurient content and lacking educational value.

Obscene material pertains to content appealing to prurient interests, patently offensive, and lacking in substantive value.

Technology protection measures refer to tools blocking Internet access to obscene, child pornographic, or harmful content.

User I.D. denotes the unique identifier assigned to students, staff, or authorized individuals.

Authority

DCTS asserts its ownership of technology resources and reserves the right to monitor and regulate their use. Users have no expectation of privacy, and DCTS may cooperate with legal authorities in investigating misuse.

Delegation of Responsibility

DCTS endeavors to ensure responsible technology use through education, user agreements, and monitoring. Staff have a duty to foster students' digital literacy and discernment.

Guidelines

Dauphin County Technical School (DCTS) maintains stringent policies to ensure that technology usage aligns with educational objectives and regulatory standards. Prohibited activities encompass and are not limited to gaming, unauthorized software installation, accessing inappropriate content, and engaging in cyberbullying. The following are a list of additional prohibited activities:

- Gaming, chatrooms, social engineering, and any form of cyberbullying.[12][13]
- Usage of external devices like flash drives or other portable storage devices.
- Installation of any software, third-party or proprietary, without approval from the department of technology.
- Use of personal devices that utilize DCTS network resources during instructional hours instead of school-issued devices.
- Attempting to gain unauthorized access, tamper with, disrupt, or enter the DCTS network, resources, and/or services.
- Use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to bypass network restrictions.
- Plagiarism of any kind; proper attribution must be given to the original authors or sources.[14]
- Communication that is defamatory, lewd, vulgar, threatening, harassing, discriminatory, bullying, terroristic, or facilitating illegal activity.[12][15][16][17][18]
- Using digital technology for purposes other than legitimate educational or school-related activities.
- Accessing or sharing obscene, pornographic, or illegal materials.
- Accessing material harmful to minors or inappropriate for minors.
- Unauthorized modification of school computers or data.
- Violation of copyright laws or licensing agreements.[19]
- Disruption of other users' work.
- Installation of software or removal of security features without authorization.
- Changing desktop settings or screen savers on school computers.
- Hacking, planting viruses, or engaging in any malicious activities on school-owned hardware and/or software.
- Disconnecting school computers or hardware without explicit permission.
- Inserting removable media into school computers without permission.
- Accessing, sending, or downloading confidential information without authorization.
- Sending fraudulent, harassing, sexually explicit, defamatory, or unlawful material via electronic communication using DCTS resources.
- Using DCTS resources for commercial or personal advertisements, solicitations, promotions, or political material, except as relevant to educational purposes.
- Failing to report any encounter with inappropriate material to a teacher or school administrator.
- Not paying for printing beyond the allowed limit set by the administration.
- Avoiding acts that waste or misuse digital technology or monopolize resources unfairly, including sending mass mailings, phishing emails, chain letters, or engaging in non-curriculum-related

activities.

- Downloading game, audio, video, and picture files unless related to the curriculum.
- Accessing the DCTS network through non-secure Wi-Fi or non-DCTS provided hotspots.
- Bypassing the DCTS network to access unauthorized networks or content.
- Sharing account usernames and passwords.
- Intentionally obtaining or modifying files, passwords, user accounts, and/or data belonging to other users.
- Making unauthorized purchases using DCTS technology resources.
- Violating the privacy rights of others using digital technology.
- Logging off or locking digital technology when not in use.

CIPA Compliance and Content Filtering

DCTS adheres to the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), employing filtering software to restrict access to harmful material. The school educates students on online safety and may block or unblock specific content as necessary.

COPPA Compliance

DCTS abides by the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), ensuring parental consent for students under 13 accessing sites collecting personal information.

Digital Etiquette, Proper Use, and User Conduct

Users are expected to demonstrate responsible, ethical, and legal conduct in their digital interactions, with no expectation of privacy regarding their use of DCTS resources.

Liability and Financial Responsibility

Users are liable for damages to DCTS resources and may incur repair or replacement costs. Financial responsibility includes an annual technology fee and reimbursement for damages caused.

Students will be responsible for an annual \$20.00 technology fee for usage of device and minor classification repairs such as malfunctions and/or wear and tear.

Violations and Consequences

Violations of the policy may result in disciplinary actions, including suspension or expulsion, with users bearing financial costs for damages.

Updates and Modifications to Policy

DCTS reserves the right to modify the policy as needed, with changes communicated through the school’s website and notification to users via the Dauphin County Technical School Technology Acknowledgment Form.

****For more information or to see the full acceptable use policy visit www.dcts.org/joc****

By signing the acknowledgment form, parties indicate their understanding of and agreement to comply with the policy and any subsequent modifications.

Agreement/Acknowledgement

Does your student have access to the internet when not in school?

Yes

No

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: X _____

Date: _____