



Young Scholars Charter School Computing and Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Purpose

Young Scholars Charter School (YSCS) is providing its employees and students (“users”) with access to computing equipment, systems and local network functions such as e-mail and the Internet. Through this policy, YSCS intends to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions

A. Technology Protection Measure: The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. Obscene: as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. Child Pornography: as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. Harmful to minors

B. Harmful to minors: The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

C. Sexual Act; Sexual Contact: the terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

D. Cyber bullying: is bullying through email, instant messaging (IMing), chat room exchanges, Web site posts, or digital messages or images sent to a cellular phone or personal digital assistant (PDA) (Kowalski et al. 2008).

Access rights and privileges.

1. Young Scholars Charter School has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the use of equipment, resources and material students and employees access or post through the system. Students and employees are also expected to follow the rules set forth in YSCS’s rules and regulations governing conduct, disciplinary code, and the law in their use of YSCS’s equipment and network. This access has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. All access and rights are privileges granted by YSCS, and users should expect no privacy rights.
2. All YSCS employees and students will have access to the Internet through YSCS’s private network. Parents may specifically request that their children not be provided such access by notifying YSCS in writing.

3. Students may be permitted to access an external Internet e-mail service or their personal e-mail account for the purpose of legitimate instructional or school-based needs. This is a local decision.

Responsibilities of Data

1. YSCS makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, for the technology access it is providing.
2. YSCS will not be responsible for any damages users suffer including but not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays or interruptions in services.
3. YSCS will not be responsible for the accuracy, nature or quality of information stored on district diskettes, hard drives, or servers; nor for the accuracy, nature or quality of information gathered through YSCS-provided technology access.
4. YSCS will not be responsible for personal property used to access district computers or networks.
5. YSCS will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations resulting from YSCS-provided access to the internet.

Unacceptable Uses

1. Users may not use the YSCS's private network to access material that is profane or obscene (pornography of any kind), that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature).
2. Users may not post personal information on the Internet about themselves or other people. Personal contact information includes address, telephone, school address, work address, pictures or video bites, clips, etc.
3. Students may not agree to meet with someone they have met on the Internet without their parent's approval and participation.
4. Users may not attempt to gain unauthorized access to any other computer system. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing", "snooping", or "electronic discovery".
5. Users may not deliberately disrupt or harm hardware or systems, interfere with computer or network performance, interfere with another's ability to use equipment and systems, or destroy data.
6. Users may not use the YSCS's private network to engage in illegal acts, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of person, accessing or sharing unauthorized copyrighted music, movies, and other intellectual property, etc.
7. Users may not utilize peer-to-peer file-sharing applications or execute programs to facilitate the downloading or exchange of copyrighted or unauthorized music, movies, and other materials.
8. Users may not use the YSCS's private network to solicit information with the intent of using such information to cause personal harm or bodily injury to another or others.
9. Users may not post information that could endanger an individual, cause personal damage or a danger of service disruption.
10. Users may not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
11. Users may not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users.

12. Users may not indirectly or directly make connections that create "backdoors" to YSCS, other organizations, community groups, etc. that allow unauthorized access to YSCS's network.
13. Users may not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, hateful, threatening, or disrespectful language.
14. Users may not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
15. Users may not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person.
16. Users may not re-post a message that was sent to them privately without permission of the person who sent them the message.
17. Users may not forward or post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people. Users will not install or reproduce unauthorized or unlicensed software on District resources.
18. Users may not plagiarize works that they find on the Internet or other resources.
19. Users may not use technology resources and Internet for private business activities or unreasonable personal use.
20. Users may not use YSCS's private network for political lobbying.
21. Students will not download files unless approved by their teacher.

System Security Obligations

1. Users are responsible for the use of their individual access account(s) and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use their account(s), including coworkers, friends, or family. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person.
2. Attempts to log on to YSCS's private network or any other network as a system administrator is prohibited.
3. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of violating this or any other Acceptable Use Policy may be denied access to YSCS's private network.
4. Users will avoid the inadvertent spread of computer viruses by following YSCS's virus protection procedures if they download software or share common file directory.
5. Users should immediately notify a teacher or system administrator of any possible security problem.
6. Students will promptly disclose to their teacher or other appropriate school employee any message received that is inappropriate.

Filtering

1. As required by law and in recognition of the need to establish a safe and appropriate computing environment, YSCS will use filtering technology to prohibit access, to the degree possible, to objectionable or unsuitable content that might otherwise be accessible via the Internet.

Due Process

1. YSCS will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through YSCS's private network.

2. In the event there is an allegation that a student has violated the Computing and Acceptable Use Policy, the student will be provided with a written notice of the alleged violation and will be provided with notice and opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the Student Hearing Process Policy. Disciplinary actions may be taken.
3. Employee violations of the Computing and Acceptable Use Policy will be handled in accord with law, YSCS policies, as applicable.

Administration

1. The School Director has the responsibility and authority for the development, publication, implementation and ongoing administration and enforcement of the processes and techniques required to protect YSCS's technology systems and services from unauthorized access, loss or misuse.
2. The School Director has the responsibility to establish a plan to ensure adequate supervision of students. They are also responsible for interpreting and enforcing this policy.
3. The School Director has the responsibility to interpret and enforce this policy.
4. The School Director will ensure that all students are educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and its chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response.
 - A. The School will provide yearly instruction to students during Community Circle about the online behavior. The curriculum will be teacher developed but will utilize resources from the Olweus program, Safe-Net, and Cyber Smart.