Student Acceptable Use of Technology and Network Resources

Butts County Public Schools (BCSS) recognizes the vital role that technology plays in supporting teaching, learning, and district operations. Students and staff have access to a wide range of technology tools, devices, applications, and Internet resources—including Artificial Intelligence (AI)—to enhance instruction, promote collaboration, and encourage creativity and innovation.

Staff members also use these resources to guide student learning, increase engagement, and collaborate with colleagues. With access to such powerful tools, all users are expected to demonstrate responsibility, integrity, and respect when using BCSS-provided technology and network access.

Expectations for Student Use

Students must adhere to all guidelines outlined in the **Student Acceptable Use Policy** when using BCSS technology or network access. This includes respecting the privacy and digital property of others.

- Student accounts are intended strictly for educational use and are subject to monitoring. This includes all messages, files, attachments, and other content.

- **BCSS technology, including email, networked applications, and devices, should never be considered private or confidential.**

While the district maintains Internet filtering systems, inappropriate content may still be encountered accidentally or deliberately. **BCSS does not condone the use of such material**, and accessing or sharing it is strictly prohibited.

1:1 Device Responsibility

As a 1:1 district, BCSS assigns devices and other technology resources to students for instructional use at school and home. Once issued, **the student and their family are responsible** for:

- Monitoring the device's use to ensure compliance with the Student Handbook.

- Ensuring the device is returned in the same condition in which it was issued.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for Learning

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems trained to perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence. As AI becomes increasingly present in education, business, and daily life, BCSS encourages students to develop responsible, informed, and ethical practices when using AI technologies. All students are expected to follow the latest version of **BCSS Human-Centered Guidance for AI** and the specific expectations of their teachers.

Students must adhere to the following principles when using AI tools:

- **Evaluate Before Use:** Students should consult with teachers or trusted adults before using any AI tools. They should assess the tool's purpose, accuracy, safety, and appropriateness for educational use.

- **Use AI Responsibly in Academics:** Students must follow teacher guidance regarding how and when AI tools may be used in academic settings. Acceptable use may vary based on assignments and learning objectives.

- **Critically Review AI Outputs:** Students must carefully review and evaluate AI-generated content before including it in schoolwork. Submissions should never consist solely of unreviewed AI outputs.

- **Check for Bias and Accuracy:** Students should recognize that AI-generated information may contain inaccuracies or biases. Always verify facts and claims using trusted, credible sources.

- **Promote Safety and Respect:** AI tools must never be used to create or distribute harmful, offensive, deceptive, or inappropriate content.

Prohibited Activities

All students must use BCSS technology and electronic resources responsibly. The following actions are strictly prohibited:

- Harming others through digital means (e.g., cyberbullying, harassment).

- Interfering with or disrupting others' work or learning.

- Stealing or attempting to steal data, property, or intellectual work.

- Accessing or attempting to access others' files, passwords, or accounts without authorization.

- Gaining unauthorized access to internal or external systems and services.

- Modifying hardware or software configurations, including installing or deleting software.

- Introducing viruses, bypassing security settings, or compromising network integrity.

- Accessing, distributing, or sharing inappropriate, obscene, sexually explicit, hateful, or profane materials.

- Plagiarizing or misrepresenting academic work.

Consequences for Misuse

Violations of this policy may constitute infractions of Georgia law, including:

- O.C.G.A. § 16-9-90, § 16-9-91, § 16-9-93, and § 16-9-93.1

- Federal law under the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Misuse may result in:

- Loss of access to BCSS technology resources

- Disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Handbook and district policies

- Confiscation of the device or technology involved in the incident

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

Under COPPA, operators of commercial websites and online services may not collect personal information from children under the age of 13 without parental consent. Within an educational context, schools may act as the parent's agent in granting consent when such collection is solely for school use and not for commercial purposes.

By signing the district's technology agreement form, parents authorize BCSS and its employees to act as the parent's agent in consenting to data collection as needed for educational purposes.

Supplemental Technology and Student Email

To support learning, BCSS offers access to **Google Workspace for Education**, which may be used alongside the district's Learning Management System. Student email accounts (via Gmail) are provided for educational use **within the BCSS domain only**.

- Students may send and receive messages **only to and from other BCSS users**.

- These email accounts are accessible via the Student Portal and can be used from any device.

- All communication is subject to monitoring and must comply with district policies.