

**NORTHWEST TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
2025-2026 POLICY MANUAL  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>POLICY</b>	<b>PAGE NUMBER</b>
---------------	------------------------

---

**SECTION 12 – TECHNOLOGY**

Internet and Technology Safety .....	1
Acceptable Use of Internet and Electronic and Digital Communications Devices.....	4
Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety Fact Sheet.....	9
Prohibited Use of District Issued Technology Equipment .....	10
Personal Wireless Devices and Electronic Accounts.....	11
Acceptable Use of File Sharing Technology .....	14
Social Media and Social Networking .....	16
Cybersecurity.....	22
Technology Center Personnel Digital and Electronic Communications with Minor Students.....	24

## **INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY SAFETY**

It is the policy of the technology center 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 or digital 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 U.S.C. § 254(h)] and Oklahoma law [OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 11-202].

### Definition

The determination of what is “inappropriate” for minors shall be determined by the technology center. It is acknowledged that the determination of such “inappropriate” material may vary depending upon the circumstances of the situation and the age of the students involved in online research and activity.

The terms “minor,” “child pornography,” “harmful to minors,” “obscene,” “technology protection measures,” “sexual act,” and “sexual contact” shall be defined in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act, Oklahoma law, and any other applicable laws/regulations as appropriate and implemented by the technology center.

### Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet Filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet (or other forms of electronic or digital communications) access to inappropriate information. Specifically, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### Inappropriate Network Usage

Any individual who uses the technology center’s resources to access the Internet or engage in any electronic or digital communication is required to participate in the technology center’s education efforts (undertaken pursuant to the Children’s Internet Protection Act) and comply with the district’s acceptable use policy.

### Supervision and Monitoring

All employees are responsible for supervising and monitoring minor student’s use of the Internet in accordance with the technology center’s policies, the Children’s Internet Protection Act, and Oklahoma law. The technology center’s IT director shall establish and implement procedures regarding technology protection measures. No individual will be permitted to use the school’s technology resources in a manner inconsistent with the technology center’s policies.

### Personal Safety

Employees and students shall not use the school's technology resources in any manner that jeopardizes personal safety. Students and employees must follow the technology center's policies, including the acceptable use policy which details the technology center's safe use standards.

### Certification and Verification

The technology center shall provide certification, pursuant to the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act, to document the technology center's adoption and enforcement of its Internet and Technology Safety Policy, including the operation and enforcement of technology protection measures for all technology center computers with Internet access.

The technology center shall also obtain verification from any provider of digital or online library database resources that all the resources they provide to the technology center are in compliance with Oklahoma law and the technology center's Internet and Technology Safety Policy. If any provider of digital or online library resources fails to comply, the technology center shall withhold payment, pending verification of compliance. If any provider of digital or online library resources fails to timely verify compliance, the technology center shall consider the provider's act of noncompliance a breach of contract.

### Reporting

No later than December 1 of each year, Oklahoma law provides that libraries shall submit to the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate an aggregate written report on any issues related to provider compliance with Internet technology measures as required under Oklahoma law.

### Employee Liability

Employees of the technology center shall not be exempt from prosecution for willful violations of state law prohibiting indecent exposure to obscene material or child pornography as provided under Oklahoma law [OKLA. STAT. tit. 21, § 1021].

Reference: 47 U.S.C. § 254(h); OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 11-202; OKLA. STAT. tit. 21, § 1021.



**ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET AND  
ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES**

The forms of electronic and digital communications change rapidly. This policy addresses common existing forms of electronic and digital communication (email, texting, blogging, , posting, etc.) but is intended to cover any new form of electronic or digital communication which utilizes a computer, phone or other digital or electronic device.

As a part of the resources available to students and employees, the technology center provides Internet access at each campus and at its administrative offices. The technology center intends for this resource to be used for educational purposes and not to be used for conduct which is harmful. This policy outlines the technology center's expectations regarding Internet access. The ability to access the Internet while on technology center property is a privilege and not a right. Access cannot be granted until an individual has completed an "Internet Access Agreement" and access may be revoked at any time.

Any individual using technology center resources to engage in electronic or digital communications has no expectation of privacy. Further, employees and students must be cognizant of the fact that electronic or digital communications which occur on private equipment are often permanently available and may be available to school administrators.

Employees and students are expected to use good judgment in all their electronic or digital communications - whether such activities occur on or off campus or whether the activity uses personal or school technology. Any electronic or digital communication which can be considered inappropriate, harassing, intimidating, threatening or bullying to an employee or student of the technology center - regardless of whether the activity uses technology center equipment or occurs during school/work hours - is strictly forbidden. Employees and students face the possibility of penalties, including student suspension or dismissal and employee termination, for failing to abide by technology center policies when accessing and using electronic or digital communications.

The Internet provides users the ability to quickly access information on any topic - even topics which are considered harmful to minors. The technology center's IT department has attempted to filter this access in order to protect students from harmful content. In the event inappropriate material is inadvertently accessed, students should promptly report the site to their instructor so that other students can be protected. No individual is permitted to circumvent the technology center's privacy settings by accessing blocked content through alternate methods. In the event an employee needs access to blocked content, he/she should make arrangements through the campus director or IT director.

Although the technology center's IT department has taken appropriate steps to block offensive material, users may unwittingly encounter offensive material. All users of the technology center's electronic resources are required to exercise personal responsibility for the material they access, send or display, and must not engage in electronic conduct which is prohibited by law or policy. If a student inadvertently accesses or receives offensive material, he/she should report the communication to the assigned instructor. If an employee accesses or receives offensive material, he/she should report the communication

to the campus director or IT director. No individual is permitted to access, view or distribute materials which are inappropriate or create a hostile environment.

#### Internet Access - Terms and Conditions.

**Acceptable Use - Students.** Students agree to access material in furtherance of educational goals or for personal leisure and recreational use which does not otherwise violate this policy. No student may make an electronic or digital communication which disrupts the education environment - even if that communication is made outside of school or on personal equipment. Types of electronic or digital communications which can disrupt the education environment include, but are not limited to:

- Sexting
- Harassing, intimidating, threatening or bullying posts, tweets, blogs, images, texts, etc.
- Distributing pictures, recordings or information which is harmful or embarrassing

Students who engage in electronic or digital communications which disrupt the education environment are subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal from school. Depending on the nature of the electronic or digital communication, students may also be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

**Acceptable Use - Employees.** Employees agree to access material in furtherance of educational goals, including research and professional development. Employees are also permitted to judiciously use the technology center's electronic resources for limited personal use, provided that the use is of no cost to the technology center, does not preempt business activity, impede productivity, or otherwise interfere with work responsibilities. Electronic or digital communications made using technology center owned equipment must be professional in nature and cannot be used for the exercise of the employee's free speech rights.

Any electronic or digital communication in which the employee can be identified as an employee of the technology center – regardless of whether the communication is made with technology center owned equipment or during work hours - must be a professional communication. Accordingly, if the individual is identifiable as a technology center employee, electronic or digital communications must not contain sexual, harassing, discriminatory or immoral content. Further, the communication cannot promote the use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol or be otherwise inconsistent with the technology center's objectives.

**Prohibited Use.** Users specifically agree that they will not use the Internet to access material which is: threatening, indecent, lewd, obscene, or protected by trade secret. Users further agree that they will not use the technology center's electronic resources for commercial activity, charitable endeavors (without prior administrative approval), product advertisement or political lobbying.

**Parental Consent.** Parents of minor students must review this policy with their student and sign the consent form prior to a minor student being granted Internet access.

**Privilege of Use.** The technology center's electronic resources, including Internet access, is a privilege which can be revoked at any time for misuse. Prior to receiving Internet access,

all users will be required to successfully complete an Internet training program administered by the technology center.

Internet Etiquette. All users are required to comply with generally accepted standards for electronic or digital communications, including:

- a. **Appropriate Language.** Users must refrain from the use of abusive, discriminatory, vulgar, lewd or profane language in their electronic or digital communications.
- b. **Content.** Users must refrain from the use of hostile, threatening, discriminatory, intimidating, or bullying content in their electronic or digital communications.
- c. **Safety.** Minor students must not include personal contact information (name, address, phone number, address, banking numbers, etc.) in their electronic or digital communications. Minor students must never agree to meet with someone they met online and must report any electronic or digital communication which makes them uncomfortable to their teacher.
- d. **Privacy.** Users understand that the technology center has access to and can read all electronic or digital communications created and received with technology center resources. Users agree that they will not use technology center resources to create or receive any electronic or digital communications which they want to be private.
- e. **System Resources.** Users agree to use the technology center's electronic resources carefully so as not to damage them or impede others' use of the technology center's resources. Users will not:
  - install any hardware, software, program or app without approval from the IT department
  - download large files during peak use hours
  - disable security features
  - create or run a program known or intended to be malicious
  - stream music or video for personal entertainment
- f. **Intellectual Property and Copyrights.** Users will respect others' works by giving proper credit and not plagiarizing, even if using websites designed for educational and classroom purposes (See [www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html](http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html)) Users agree to ask their instructor for assistance in citing sources as needed.

**Limitation of Liability.** The technology center makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the services provided and is not responsible for any damages arising from use of the technology center's technology resources. The technology center is not responsible for the information obtained from the use of its electronic resources and is not responsible for any charges a user may incur while using its electronic resources.

**Security.** If a user notices a potential security problem, he/she should notify the IT director immediately but should not demonstrate the problem to others or attempt to identify potential security problems. Users are responsible for their individual account and should not allow others to use their account. Users should not share their access code or password with others. If a user believes his/her account has been compromised, he/she must notify the IT director immediately. Any attempt to log on to the technology center's electronic resources as another user or administrator, or to access restricted material, may result in the loss of access for the remainder of the school year or other disciplinary measures.

Vandalism. No user may harm or attempt to harm any of the technology center's electronic resources. This includes, but is not limited to, uploading or creating a virus or taking any action to disrupt, crash, disable, damage, or destroy any part of the technology center's electronic resources. Further, no user may use the technology center's electronic resources to hack vandalize another computer or system.

Inappropriate Material. Access to information shall not be restricted or denied solely because of the political, religious or philosophical content of the material. Access will be denied for material which is:

- a. Obscene to minors, meaning (i) material which, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for minors and, (ii) when an average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the written material, taken as a whole, appeals to an obsessive interest in sex by minors.
- b. Libelous, meaning a false and unprivileged statement about a specific individual which tends to harm the individual's reputation.
- c. Vulgar, lewd or indecent, meaning material which, taken as a whole, an average person would deem improper for access by or distribution to minors because of sexual connotations or profane language.
- d. Display or promotion of unlawful products or services, meaning material which advertises or advocates the use of products or services prohibited by law from being sold or provided to minors.
- e. Group defamation or hate literature, meaning material which disparages a group or a member of a group on the basis of race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender expression or identity, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age or genetic information or advocates illegal conduct or violence or discrimination toward any particular group of people. This includes racial and religious epithets, "slurs," insults and abuse.
- f. Disruptive school operations, meaning material which, on the basis of past experience or based upon specific instances of actual or threatened disruptions relating to the information or material in question, is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation of school activities or school discipline.

Application and Enforceability. The terms and conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to be incorporated in their entirety in the Internet Access Agreement executed by each user. By executing the Internet Access Agreement, the user agrees to abide by the terms and conditions contained in this policy. The user acknowledges that any violation of this policy may result in access privileges being revoked and disciplinary action being taken. For students, this means any action permitted by the technology center's policy on student behavior. For employees, this means any action permitted by law, including termination of employment.

Education of Students Regarding Appropriate On-Line Behavior. In compliance with the Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act, Section 254(h)(5), the technology center provides education to minors about the appropriate use of the technology center's electronic resources, including interacting with others on social networking and chat sites,

and cyber bullying. As a part of that education, guidelines on cyber bullying and internet safety for students are attached to this policy.

Reference: 70 O.S. § 6-401

## **Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety Fact Sheet**

People can be bullied in lots of ways, including through cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is when someone sends or posts things (words, pictures, recordings) that are mean, embarrassing or make people feel scared, embarrassed or uncomfortable. Even if they don't do this at school sometimes cyber bullying makes things at school hard. No student is allowed to disrupt school through cyber bullying.

Cyber bullies work in lots of ways, but here's some of their most common:

- Send or post mean messages
- Make up websites or accounts with stories, cartoons, pictures or "jokes" that are mean to others
- Take embarrassing pictures or recordings (without asking first)
- Send or post stuff to embarrass others
- Hack into other people's accounts or read their stuff
- Hack into other people's accounts and send or post their private stuff
- Pretend to be somebody else to get someone to give them private info
- Send threats

*If you're a cyber bully knock it off! Ask your principal/counselor how you can make things right.*

If someone is cyber bullying you, there's something you can do about it:

- Don't respond to and don't ignore a cyber bully. Instead, tell an adult you trust. If cyber bullying follows you to school, tell your teacher or counselor.
- Even if what the bully does is embarrassing, don't delete it. Instead, get a copy so you can prove what happened.
- Have an adult help you contact a company representative (cell phone company, Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) about blocking or removing the bad stuff.

You can't always stop people from being mean, but there are ways to help yourself:

- Don't give out your personal info in electronic or digital communications
- Don't tell anyone but your parents what your login name, password or PIN number is
- Don't post or send embarrassing pics or recordings (even on your own sites) - bullies love to copy your stuff

Suggestions for Parents:

- Help your child understand how permanent electronic or digital communications are
- Talk to your child about understanding, preventing and responding to cyber bullying
- Contact your student's school for help if you suspect your child is being cyber bullied – or if you suspect your child is engaging in cyber bullying

**PROHIBITED USE OF  
DISTRICT ISSUED TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT**

The technology center may issue a wireless device to the employee such as a cell phone, iPad, or laptop. Employees who are issued these devices must carefully adhere to all other technology policies.

For business and tax reasons the personal use of such equipment is not permitted and, as a result, any personal use should be limited to emergency circumstances. Any employee who utilizes a school wireless device for personal reasons must promptly notify his/her supervisor in writing, and all usage records are subject to audit for compliance with this policy. Employees who violate these requirements are subject to disciplinary action, including removal of the equipment or termination.

Any employee who is issued a technology center owned wireless device must protect the device from loss, damage, or theft. If the device is lost, the employee must promptly report the loss to his/her supervisor. If the device is stolen, the employee must immediately file a police report and notify his/her supervisor.

Employees must return all wireless devices, in good condition, upon request of the technology center or upon separation from employment, whichever is sooner.

## **PERSONAL WIRELESS DEVICES AND ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTS**

The technology center requires that all individuals devote their full attention to education while at school or during education activities. Accordingly, the technology center expects both employees and students to limit their use of personal wireless devices (including, but not limited to, hand-held mobile telephones) and personal electronic accounts at school or when engaged in school-related activities. Wireless devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, laptops, cameras, GPS systems, any type of device capable of intercepting or recording a conversation, any type of device capable of providing visual surveillance or images, recorders, Google Glass, etc. Electronic accounts include, but are not limited to, accounts that allow digital communication such as email and social media accounts.

Google Glass and similar technology is prohibited on campus by all individuals at all times. Regardless of the type of technology used, no individual may make any type of surreptitious recording of others on district property. Additionally, no person may use any type of technology to remotely monitor, listen to, or view actions occurring at school or school activities.

Personal wireless devices not otherwise prohibited shall be turned off and out-of-sight in locations such as restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms, etc. (“private areas”). The use of any audio/visual recording and camera features are strictly prohibited in private areas. Students who observe a violation of this provision shall immediately report this conduct to a teacher, administrator or campus director. Employees who observe a violation of this provision shall immediately report this conduct to their supervisor or the building administrator.

### Students

It is the Technology Center’s policy that students who possess a personal wireless device at school must keep that device turned off and out of sight during class time. No student will be permitted to access his/her personal wireless device during class time except with teacher permission for an instructional activity.

Students who violate this policy will be required to lock their personal wireless device in the technology center provided cell phone lockers until the end of the class period or after a parent conference (at the discretion of the campus director), and may lose the privileges of possessing such a device at school for the remainder of the school year. Students are also subject to other disciplinary action.

Pursuant to 70 O.S. §1-126, as amended, **for the 2025-2026 school year**, students are **prohibited** from using cell phones and personal electronic devices while on the campus of the school district from bell to bell. “Bell to Bell” means the time between the first bell ringing at the start of the school day to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell at the end of the school day to end instructional time.

Excepted from the prohibition on student use of cell phones and personal electronic devices on campus are the following situations:

1. Emergency use of cell phones or personal electronic devices by students during the school day.
2. Use of cell phones or personal electronic devices by students who use them to monitor health issues
3. As may be required by a student's disability pursuant to a state or federal law.
4. School-issued or school-approved devices that are specifically limited for use in classroom instruction.

Following the **2026-2027 school year** the Board of Education shall review this policy and determine whether the prohibition on personal device use should be extended or modified.

### Employees

Personal wireless devices may only be used during work time if the use of the device furthers the employee's performance of his/her professional responsibilities. No employee may use work time to engage in any personal electronic or digital communication, Internet activity, gaming, etc.

Employees will make reasonable efforts to use technology center resources rather than personal wireless devices or personal electronic accounts for electronic or digital communications with other employees, parents, and students and for tasks related to their employment. By using personal wireless devices or personal electronic accounts to communicate with other employees, parents, and students or to perform tasks related to their employment, employees acknowledge that they are creating records that may be subject to Oklahoma's laws related to Open Records (51 OKLA. STAT. § 24A.1 *et seq.*). Employees consent to retain and provide access to such communications or records to school district administration upon request. This consent survives any changes in the employment relationship.

Technology Center employees, when transporting students, are not permitted to text or otherwise use a personal wireless device while operating a technology center vehicle except as necessary to communicate with law enforcement officials, emergency services, or to and from the technology center's central dispatch transportation department.

Tech Center employees, when not transporting students, are permitted to utilize cell phones for business reasons to make or receive voice calls while operating a school vehicle provided:

- The employee is using "hands free" technology to make the calls; or
- The employee has safely pulled their vehicle to the side of the road or is otherwise stopped and not impeding the flow of traffic.

Personal wireless devices may not be used to photograph or record conversations or events without first obtaining consent to record from all parties. In the case of students, permission from the campus director must be obtained. Administrative approval for recordings of students will take into consideration whether prior approval has been granted from parents/guardians of minors and whether the recording would identify a specific category of students such as special education students.

Personal wireless devices may only be shared with students for emergency use.

No employee may use a personal wireless device to engage in conduct which is illegal or which could be construed as inappropriate conduct with a student or students. In the event an employee receives an inappropriate electronic or digital communication from a student or parent, the communication must be promptly reported to the employee's supervisor.

The technology center fully acknowledges that personal wireless communications devices are the personal property of the employee. Unless an administrator has reasonable suspicion that an employee's personal equipment contains prohibited content, an administrator may not inspect an employee's personal equipment without the employee's express consent.

**Warning:** Possessing, taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images, photographs, or communications, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, and other modes of electronic or digital communication) may constitute a CRIME under state and/or federal law. Any person possessing, taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images, photographs, or communications will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and inclusion on sexual offender registries.

Reference: 70.O.S. §1-126 (2025)

### **ACCEPTABLE USE OF FILE SHARING TECHNOLOGY**

Employees and students may choose to use file sharing/storing technology (Google Docs, Ever Note, etc.) in connection with school learning or business. Individuals who choose to use such technology are required to follow all other district technology and acceptable use protocols, as well as adhere to the specific guidelines in this policy.

Individuals using file sharing/storing technology in connection with their association with the technology center are expressly prohibited from using the technology in a malicious manner or in any way which violates this or other district policies.

The Superintendent is responsible for regularly reviewing all contracts with potential file sharing/storing technology vendors to ensure the technology centers interests are safeguarded. This responsibility includes making arrangements with vendors which ensure:

- the technology center maintains appropriate ownership of all data connected with the district
- data connected with the district is stored in a secure manner
- data connected with the district will not be used to market to students
- users (or parents) will not be required to waive their rights in order to create an account

#### District Data

District data encompasses all school records. This information may include:

- information which is protected by FERPA or HIPAA
- confidential information such as home addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, license numbers, dates of birth, and banking account numbers
- disciplinary or grievance information
- information about criminal investigations, including SRO records and notes
- safety sensitive information, including building layouts, evacuation routes, crisis response plans, etc.
- confidential or attorney client privileged information

District data may only be shared or stored with a file sharing/storing vendor after the board has approved an agreement, recommended by the Superintendent, with the vendor.

### Other Data

Other data encompasses all other types of school-related data such as routine documents for individual use or shared items for collaboration projects. Other data may be shared or stored with the district's approved file sharing/storing vendor or on another platform at the discretion of the user.

### All Data

Regardless of whether district data or other data is involved, file sharers specifically agree not to share or store files which contain malware, viruses, worms, etc.

Questions regarding whether information is acceptable for file sharing/storing technology should be directed to The Superintendent at the Technology Center main campus. Any individual who discovers that information has been improperly shared or stored is required to promptly notify the Superintendent of the violation. Individuals who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in district policies.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKING**

Northwest Technology Center recognizes the appropriate use of social media as a method for communicating ideas and information. The forms of electronic and digital communications change rapidly. Social media includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any nature on the Internet, including but not limited to one's own or another's web log or blog, journal or diary, personal web site, social networking or affinity web site, web bulletin board or a chat-room, whether or not associated or affiliated with the technology center, as well as any other form of electronic communication. This policy addresses common existing forms of electronic and digital communication (e.g., email, texting, blogging, tweeting, posting, etc.) but is intended to cover any new form of electronic or digital communication which utilizes a computer, phone or other digital or electronic device.

### **Definitions**

"Blog" means an online journal that contains entries or posts that consist of text, links, images, video or other media and is usually between 300-500 words.

"Comment" means a response to an article or social media content submitted by a commenter.

"Copyrights" protect the right of an author to control the reproduction and use of any creative expression that has been fixed in tangible form, such as literary works, graphic works, photographic works, audiovisual works, electronic works and musical works. It is illegal to reproduce and use copyrighted content publicly on the Internet without first obtaining the permission of the copyright owner.

"Hosted content" means text, pictures, audio, video or other information in digital form that is uploaded and resides in the social media account of the author of a social media disclosure. If an employee downloads content off of the Internet, and then uploads it to their own social media account, they are hosting that content. This distinction is important because it is generally illegal to host copyrighted content publicly on the Internet without first obtaining the permission of the copyright owner.

"Professional social media" is a work-related social media activity that is either school-based or non-school based.

"Cyberbullying" means the use of electronic information and communication devices, including, but not limited to email, instant messaging, text messaging, cellular telephone communications, Internet blogs, Internet chat rooms, Internet postings and defamatory websites.

"Social media account" means a personalized presence inside a social networking channel, initiated at will by an individual. YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat TikTok

and other social networking channels allow users to sign-up for their own social media account, which they can use to collaborate, interact and share content and status. When a user communicates through a social media account, their disclosures are attributed to their User Profile.

“Social media channels” means blogs, micro-blogs, wikis, social networks, social bookmarking services, user rating services and any other online collaboration, sharing or publishing platform, whether accessed through the web, a mobile device, text messaging, email or other existing or emerging communications platforms.

“Social media disclosures” are blog posts, blog comments, status updated, text message, posts via email, images, audio or video recordings, or any other information made available through a social media channel. Social media disclosures are the actual communications a user distributes through a social media channel, usually by means of their social media account.

“Social networking” or “social media” means interaction with external websites or services based upon participant contributions to the content. Types of social media include social and professional networks, blogs, micro blogs, video or photo sharing and social book marking.

### **Official Use of Social Media**

The district is responsible for creating and maintaining its “official” online presence. Unless specifically authorized by the Superintendent, no district employee may create an “official” Northwest Technology Center presence on any form of Social Media, now in existence, or created in the future, or represent themselves as a spokesperson or authorized representative of Northwest Technology Center.

In the spirit of exchanging perspectives, the Technology Center welcomes third party contributions to its social media pages. Comments do not reflect the opinions or policies of the Center, its board of education, administration, staff or students. Thus, the Center is not responsible for comments or replies made by visitors to any of its official social media pages and reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to screen, hide, and/or remove any content that is significantly off-topic, including but not limited to content the primary purpose of which is to sell a product or a service; is racist, sexist, abusive, profane, violent, obscene, spam, or advocates illegal activity; contains falsehoods or is libelous; incites, or threatens or makes personal attacks on individuals or groups.

The social media channels of the Technology Center are for informational purposes only. As such, it is not recommended that individuals use comments, replies or direct messages to communicate official business with the Center. Attempts to engage the Center in this way do not constitute notice to the Center in any fashion and individuals should not expect reply or action.

The superintendent, or their designee, will adopt Social Media Rules of Engagement to be posted on the Center’s website. A link to the rules will be posted in the bio section, or other conspicuous, static place, of each social media page operated by the Center.

### **Professional Conduct**

The District is committed to creating an environment in which all persons can interact

together in an atmosphere free of all forms of harassment, exploitation or intimidation. Therefore, when communicating via social networks, employees are expected to act with honesty, integrity, and respect for the rights, privileges, privacy, and property of others. By doing so employees will be abiding by applicable laws, school district policy and the core values of Northwest Technology Center. The technology center prohibits abusive or offensive online behavior of employees at work or when engaged in work-related activities; likewise, technology center resources are not to be used in abusive or offensive ways. Also, the technology center discourages out-of-school online abusive or offensive behavior because of its potential to interfere with and disrupt working and student relationships.

Employees are responsible for the material they publish online as well as the messages sent via computers and wireless telecommunication devices. Any conduct that negatively reflects upon the district, consists of inappropriate behavior, or creates disruption on the part of an employee may expose that employee to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Inappropriate behavior is defined as any activity that harms students, compromises an employee's objectivity, undermines an employee's authority or ability to maintain control of students or work with or around students, is disruptive to the educational environment, or is illegal. Moreover, employees should not engage in personal social media during working hours.

### **Expectations of Staff**

District employees are role models and must exemplify ethical behavior in their relationships with students, parents/guardians, patrons, clients, and other staff members. Online activity, including personal online activity, is public and is therefore a reflection on the district as an organization. Employees should exercise good judgment and common sense, maintain professionalism, and immediately address inappropriate behavior or activity discovered on technology center networks. Inappropriate behavior or activity should be immediately communicated to a direct supervisor. The following should inform and guide employee judgment and actions:

5. The line between professional and personal relationships can become blurred; therefore, district employees should exercise discretion and maintain professionalism when communicating with students via computers or wireless telecommunication devices. Employees should limit this type of communication with students to matters concerning a student's education or extra-curricular activities for which the staff member has assigned responsibility. Excessive messaging or other social media communication to an individual student should be avoided and an employee should only engage in social media communication with a student for a school-related purpose and with the consent of the employee's supervisor and the student's parent/guardian.
6. Technology Center employees are prohibited from engaging in private digital exchanges with students, and should only communicate with groups or in such a manner that the communication can be publicly viewed.
7. Photos of and videos featuring students should not be posted on social media without the informed consent of a parent/guardian. For personal protection, never take a photo of an individual student.
8. Photos and videos of fellow employees should not be posted without their express permission.

9. Group student photos may be submitted to the site administrator or superintendent for inclusion on official district accounts.
10. Students should not be cited, obviously referenced, or depicted in images without proper written approval of the student's parent/guardian, and the confidential details of these individuals should never be disclosed.
11. Externally communicating any confidential information or information related to Northwest Technology Center not intended for public dissemination is always forbidden and may be grounds for termination and legal action. Public information will be released through the superintendent or his designee.
12. Copyright and fair use laws must be respected at all times. Trademarks such as logos, slogans, and digital content such as art, music, or photographs, may require permission from the copyright owner. It is the responsibility of the employee to seek permission for any such trademarked content.
13. Technology center employees are discouraged from sharing content or comments containing the following when it is directed at a colleague, parent, student or citizen of the State of Oklahoma or the United States:
  - a. Obscene sexual content or links to obscene sexual content;
  - b. Abusive and bullying language or tone;
  - c. Conduct or encouragement of illegal activity; and
  - d. Disclosure of information which an agency and its employees are required to keep confidential by law, regulation or internal policy.

Content or comments of the type listed above are especially concerning when directed at or exchanged with a student and, as a result, may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment and, in some instances, referral to law enforcement or licensing and certification bodies.

14. The technology center is not interested in limiting an employee's ability to participate in personal social networks with a personal email address outside of the workplace. However, what is published on these sites should never be attributed to the technology center. Employees should make it clear that they are speaking for themselves. Furthermore, even if you do not mention the technology center, that information is readily ascertainable and could reflect poorly upon the employee and the technology center. Employees are encouraged to use common sense when making online comments, even if they intend for those to be purely personal in nature.
15. Employees are cautioned to be aware of their association with the technology center online social networks. If an employee identifies themselves as a technology center employee, the employee should ensure their profile, photographs, and related content are consistent with how the employee wishes to present themselves with colleagues, students, parents/guardians, and others.

**Personal Use of Social Networking Sites (e.g., Facebook, TikTok, Twitter and Instagram, etc.)**

1. Employees are personally responsible for all comments/information and hosted

content published online. Employees should always be mindful that social media posts like tweets and status updates will be visible and public for an extended time.

2. By posting comments, having online conversations, etc. on social media sites, employees should remember that they are broadcasting to the world; accordingly, they should be aware that even with the strictest privacy settings, what one “says” online should be within the bounds of professional discretion. Comments expressed via social networking pages under the guise of a “private conversation” may still be shared by others in a more public domain.
3. Comments related to the technology center, its employees, and technology center events, should always meet the highest standards of professional discretion. Employees should always assume that every one of their postings is in the public domain.
4. Before posting personal photographs, employees should first consider how the posted images reflect on an employee’s professionalism.
5. Technology center employees are not permitted to solicit or accept “friend” requests from enrolled technology center students on any personal social media account. This includes student accounts and technology center employee personal accounts.
6. Technology center employees are not permitted to encourage students enrolled in the technology center to create social media accounts of any kind.
7. All technology center employees who choose to utilize Facebook, TikTok, Twitter, Instagram or any other social media platform to provide classroom or extracurricular activity information to students and parents must create a “teacher” page, and posts must be exclusively about classroom or school activities.

### **Accountability**

All staff are expected to serve as positive ambassadors for the district and appropriate role models for students. Failure to do so could put an employee in violation of district policy. Violation of district policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. All employees who have reason to believe that their on-line conduct has generated public or media attention are expected to immediately report their activity and attention generated to their supervisor.

### **Staff-Student Relationships**

Employees are prohibited from establishing personal relationships with students that are unprofessional and thereby inappropriate. Examples of unprofessional relationships include, but are not limited to: employees fraternizing or communicating with students as if employees and students were peers, e.g. writing personal letters or emails; “texting” students; calling students on a cell phone or allowing students to make personal calls to them unrelated to homework or class work; sending personal or inappropriate pictures to students; discussing or revealing to students personal matters about their private lives or inviting students to do the same (other than professional counseling by an assigned school counselor); and engaging in sexualized dialogue, whether in person, by phone, via the Internet or in writing.

### **Distribution of Policy**

This policy shall be distributed to all employees via the technology center's email system at the beginning of each school year and at the time of hiring to all new employees hired after the start of the school year.

Reference: Okla. Stat. tit. 74, § 840-8.1

## **CYBERSECURITY**

The technology center takes seriously the safety and security of its students and staff, which includes electronic security. Therefore, it is the policy of the technology center to have in place measures to prevent unauthorized access to its computer networks and to prevent the online theft, disclosure, use, or dissemination of personally-identifiable information stored on its computer networks (a “security incident”).

### Cybersecurity Protection Measures Generally

The Information Technology Director (IT Director) shall be responsible for the design and monitoring of measures to prevent and respond to unauthorized or unlawful access to or use of data on the technology center’s computer networks (“preventative measures”). These measures shall include identifying network vulnerabilities, developing disaster recovery and business continuity plans, establishing clear procedures that comply with this policy, and educating all stakeholders and users on the importance of computer network security. Additionally, the storage of personally-identifiable information stored on technology center computer networks should be designed so that in the event of a data breach incident, the following data elements associated with the first name or first initial and last name of an individual are either encrypted or redacted: (a) social security number, (b) driver license number or state identification card issued in lieu of a driver license, or (c) financial account number, or credit card number, in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to the financial account of the individual.

### Security and Monitoring

The technology center will take reasonable efforts to maintain computer network security, whether threatened by security breach, human error, hardware malfunction, or otherwise. The IT Director shall be responsible for securing and actively monitoring the technology center’s computer network (“network”) to identify, contain, mitigate, and report any security incident, which may include contracting with a third party for such services. However, any staff member who suspects or becomes aware of a security incident shall immediately notify the IT Director.

The IT Director shall also be responsible for designing, or having in place, adequate preventative measures, including perimeter and access controls, to regulate digital traffic between the technology center’s computers and external entities. To the extent practicable, the electronic transmission of personally-identifiable information should be encrypted or redacted. Additionally, the IT Director shall ensure the technology center’s network and all technology center computer equipment are protected from malicious software attacks such as viruses, ransomware, spyware, and malware by commercial grade cybersecurity software and appropriate and regularly-updated software, including timely installation of necessary software patches.

The IT Director shall annually report to the board of education regarding the adequacy of the technology center's preventative measures, including any security incidents that have occurred, the technology center's responses to those incidents, and subsequent improvements to network security. The IT Director shall also conduct vulnerability assessments to monitor the efficacy of the technology center's preventative measures and make ongoing improvements or updates to security protocols, systems, hardware, and software as necessary.

The IT Director shall also develop a disaster recovery or business continuity plan to be implemented in the case of a disaster or serious security incident which compromises the technology center's network and/or the data stored thereon. This plan shall include procedures for routinely backing-up technology center data to a secured, off-site location or onto appropriate backup media at a secure, off-site location. The technology center may contract with a third party for such services. At least [frequency, i.e., annually, semi-annually], the IT Director shall conduct contingency testing to ensure the speedy restoration of technology center systems and information in the event of a security incident or a disaster.

### Response and Reporting

In the event of a security incident, IT Director shall immediately notify the Superintendent, and they, in consultation with the technology center's legal counsel, shall take such reasonable and appropriate steps as may be required, which may include notification to law enforcement and affected parties. The Superintendent shall also notify the Board of Education of any security incidents as soon as practicable.

### Education

The IT Director is responsible for providing annual information technology training to technology center personnel who have access to sensitive and personally-identifiable information. This training will emphasize such employees' personal responsibility for protecting the technology center's network and personally-identifiable information. Additionally, and on an ongoing basis, the IT Director will provide guidance to all technology center employees on best practices to mitigate against the threats of a cyber-attack.

Reference: OKLA. STAT. tit. 74, § 3113.1; OKLA. STAT. tit. 24, §§ 161–166 (“Security Breach Notification Act”); 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (“FERPA”); 47 U.S.C. § 254; 47 C.F.R. § 54.520 (“Children’s Internet Protection Act”); 20 U.S.C. § 7131 (“Elementary and Secondary Education Act”); 15 U.S.C. § 7001

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER PERSONNEL DIGITAL AND ELECTRONIC  
COMMUNICATIONS WITH MINOR STUDENTS**

Purpose

This policy addresses all forms of group or one-on-one electronic and digital communication (including, but not limited to, email, texting, instant messages, direct messages, social media messages, messages sent through software applications, etc.) between any Center employee and minor students. This policy outlines the Center's expectations regarding school personnel's direct digital and electronic communication with minor students by requiring any such direct communication with minor students to include the minor student's parent or guardian.

School Personnel

School personnel includes teachers, administrators, school bus drivers, support personnel, or any other persons employed full-time or part-time by the Center.

Policy

Pursuant to Oklahoma law, school personnel engaging in electronic or digital communication with a minor student must include the minor student's parent or guardian in the communication, unless the communication is on a school-approved platform and is related to school and academic matters. In the case of an emergency where other parties cannot be immediately included on digital or electronic communications, the minor student's parent or guardian shall be subsequently notified of the communication as soon as possible.

Prior to the start of the school year, the Center shall compile a list of approved digital platforms for communications between Center personnel and minor students. Such platforms will automatically include in the messaging parents or guardians who opt in. The list will be posted on the Center website and distributed to Center employees. These sanctioned platforms are the only appropriate method for Center personnel to communicate directly with minor students. Outside these platforms, school personnel must affirmatively include a parent or guardian in the text message, email or other electronic communication. Failure to do so is a violation of the law and this policy.

Violations

School personnel reported to be engaging in unauthorized communications with minor students through digital or electronic platforms shall be placed on administrative leave while the Center investigates the incident and notifies the Board of Education. If the investigation results in a finding that no misconduct occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated, and the incident shall be noted in the employee's personnel file. If the investigation finds misconduct occurred, the employee shall be disciplined according to the

Center's policy, up to and including termination of employment. Additionally, the incident shall be reported to law enforcement.

### Reporting

Minor students who receive communication from school personnel in violation of this policy are encouraged to report it to a teacher, site Director or other Center official. School personnel who suspect, recognize, or encounter digital or electronic communications between a minor student or staff member that does not include a parent or guardian, or otherwise violates this policy, must report it immediately to their supervisor, the Superintendent, or other Center official.

Reference: 70 O.S. § 6-401