

**BLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Internet Safety**

**Guidelines**

1. Protect privacy and safety by not disclosing any personal information such as names, telephone numbers, addresses or passwords. Students should not disclose information that could lead to the discovery of their identity, such as their school name or location.
2. Use only assigned usernames and/or passwords. The use of others' usernames and/or passwords is forbidden.
3. Do not disable filtering software or other software/programs that is used by Bland County Public Schools.
4. Be courteous and use appropriate language. Do not harass or attack others. Do not use any expressions of or engage in discrimination, revenge, bias, racism and/or hate.
5. Do not view, send, display, or use profanity, obscenities, sexually explicit, or offensive materials.
6. Students are advised to never meet anyone who they have met only on the Internet.
7. Report any pornographic or offensive materials on or accessible from school-owned equipment.
8. Immediately report any incidents of cyber bullying such as personal attacks and threats to you, others or to school property. Retain copies of any threatening content or messages to provide to school authorities and/or law enforcement.
9. Do not use Bland County Public School computer equipment and communication services for sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal, inappropriate or obscene material via the Internet.

**Filtering Process**

Bland County Public Schools recognizes that users may encounter materials that could be viewed as inappropriate and non-educational. Provisions have been made to direct and monitor student use through the use of filtering software. This filtering software consists of a database of pornographic and other objectionable Web sites. The Technology Department has configured the filtering program to block access to these sites. The filtering database is updated several times through out the year, however there is always the chance that a new pornographic or hate site will appear that has not been picked up by the software. For that reason, teachers, librarians, and other staff members monitor and supervise students' Internet access. These efforts help student to use the Internet

responsibly. Bland County Public Schools are in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Code of Virginia.

The Technology Department manages the filtering software; however, it continues to be the responsibility of the individual user not to initiate access to inappropriate material. If such material is encountered, the user is expected to exit immediately and notify the Teacher, the Supervisor of Technology Services, or Library Media Specialists of the inappropriate material and how it was accessed.

### **Consequences for Inappropriate or Illegal Use of Computer/Internet Resources**

Any violation of these regulations shall result in loss of computer system privileges and may also result in appropriate disciplinary action, as determined by School Board policy, or legal action.

### **Areas of Responsibility**

1. The Supervisor of Technology Services is responsible for the system-wide implementation, review, and evaluation of the AUP/Internet Safety procedures. Principals are responsible for the implementation at the school level.
2. Administrators are responsible for informing staff members of the AUP/Internet Safety policy and providing each staff member with a copy.
3. School staffs are responsible for informing students and their parents of the AUP/Internet Safety and the consequences resulting from not adhering to both.
4. All technology users are responsible for reviewing and abiding by the AUP/Internet Safety policy.
5. Teachers, library media specialists, and other staff members are responsible for providing Internet safety instruction, guidance, and monitoring student use of Bland County Public Schools computer and Internet resources, and reporting all violations to school administration.
6. Teachers are responsible for posting the rules for safe Internet use (i.e., Acceptable Use Guidelines) and reminding students that the rules were created for their protection.
7. Students are responsible for contacting a teacher, school administrator or parent if they encounter situations that are offensive or threatening while using Bland County Public Schools computers, Internet, or other electronic resources.
8. Bland County Public Schools is responsible for providing teachers with opportunities to learn about Internet-related personal safety, cyber security, cyber bullying, malicious codes and viruses, and copyright ethics.

9. Authorized personnel may review files and communication to maintain system reliability. All users should presume that electronic communications and storage are not private, permanent, nor necessarily secure.
10. Parents and community stakeholders may be responsible for reviewing and recommending ongoing revisions to the Bland County Public School Internet Safety Program.
11. Bland County Public School is not responsible for student or staff use of electronic technology resources outside of school. However, staff or students may be disciplined for any technology use that negatively affects the Bland County Public School or that negatively affects the ability or fitness of any staff person to effectively serve the school division.
12. The use of computer equipment and communication services, technology and the Internet by school personnel shall represent the school/program favorably in the school and in the community and must model appropriate usage for the student population.
14. All stakeholders should monitor and/or evaluate emerging technologies and recommend revisions to the Bland County Public School Internet safety program.

### **Summary**

The Bland County School Board's technology investments are designed to provide a better education for our students. We have designed our Acceptable Computer System Use/Internet Safety Policy to promote an educational use of our computers, networks, and Internet without imposing undue restrictions on users. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding this policy or technology usage in Bland County Public Schools, please contact the Supervisor of Technology Services at 688-3361, or at [dtate@bland.k12.va.us](mailto:dtate@bland.k12.va.us).

### Reference:

*Acceptable Use Policies: A Handbook* by the Virginia Department Of Education  
*Guidelines and Resources for INTERNET SAFETY in Schools* - VDOE Division of  
Technology & Career Education

Code of Virginia 22.1-70.2

Bland County Public School Acceptable Computer System Use File: GAB-R/IIBEA-R

Approved by the School Board: August 25, 2008