
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Pathways Academy Adult Education (“PAAE” or the “Charter School”) provides technology resources to its students solely for educational purposes. Through technology, the Charter School provides access for students and staff to many resources. Expanding technologies provide tremendous opportunities for enhancing, extending, and rethinking the learning process. The goal in providing these resources is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication with the support and supervision of the parent and credentialed teacher. However, this access also brings potential exposure to material that may not hold educational value, or may be harmful or disruptive to the student’s learning experience.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that student use of school Internet and school owned computers and devices is appropriate and only for educational purposes, consistent with this policy.

All computer equipment, programs, supporting materials, and peripherals of any nature which the student receives from the Charter School are loaned to the student for educational purposes only and belong to the Charter School. As a condition of receiving and using any such equipment, the student and student’s parent/guardian(s) acknowledge that there is no right of or expectation of privacy whatsoever related to the student’s use of such equipment. The Charter School retains the right to monitor, at all times, Internet/computer activity accessed by this equipment, review any material stored in files on such equipment, edit or remove any material which the school staff, in its sole discretion, believes violates the Charter School’s standards, and terminate the Internet/Computer Agreement of any persons violating the conditions set forth in this policy.

Minor students using the Internet must be closely supervised by their parent/guardian. Students are ultimately responsible for their behavior online and with respect to use of Charter School computers/devices.

It is the intent of this policy to protect students from inappropriate information. However, the Charter School cannot screen all materials available on the Internet. Willfully accessing or viewing inappropriate material in any form by students on school owned computers and/or other devices is a violation of this policy and may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, the revocation of Charter School-provided computer(s) and/or device(s), and/or the imposition of discipline, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion of the student as appropriate. Students, staff and parents hold a joint responsibility to ensure that inappropriate material is not displayed or available on any Charter School computer or device.

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Parents/guardians are encouraged to teach their minor student(s) about Internet safety, including how to protect online privacy and how to avoid online predators using resources such as materials available at: <http://www.digitalcitizenship.net>. The Charter School has also adopted internet safety policies in accordance with applicable law, including the Children's Internet Protection Act.

This policy does not attempt to articulate all required or proscribed behavior by users. Misuse may come in many forms; examples include any transmission(s) sent or received that suggest or indicate pornography, unethical or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, and inappropriate language.

The following characterize, but do not exhaustively list all unacceptable behavior:

- 1) Using the school Internet/computer system for illegal, inappropriate, or obscene purposes or in support of such activities.
- 2) Utilizing the school Internet/computer system for any illegal activity including violation of copyrights or other contracts relating to licensed uses.
- 3) Damaging or misusing any school computer hardware or software.
- 4) Utilizing the school's Internet/computer system for commercial/financial gain or fraud.
- 5) Pirating and/or theft of data, equipment, or intellectual property, either relating to or in using the school's Internet/computer system.
- 6) Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to online resources through use of the school's Internet/computer system.
- 7) Utilizing the school Internet/computer system to encourage the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco or any promotion or attempt to promote any unethical behavior.
- 8) Using harassing, abusive or obscene language through use of the school's Internet/computer system.
- 9) Annoying, harassing or intentionally offending another person through use of the school's Internet/computer system.
- 10) Introducing computer viruses into the system.
- 11) Forging electronic mail messages or improperly accessing and/or using an account owned by, or designated to another (e.g., another student or staff member).
- 12) Invading the privacy of others (e.g., by posting compromising information or photographs) through use of the school's Internet/computer system.
- 13) Possessing data in any form (including hard copy or disk) which might be considered a violation of these rules.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

As with any other violation of school rules and regulations, consequences of violations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Temporary suspension of access to the school Internet/computer system
- 2) Permanent revocation of access to the school Internet/computer system
- 3) Limitations on access to the school Internet/computer system
- 4) Disciplinary measures as appropriate, up to and including expulsion
- 5) Legal action and/or prosecution
- 6) Financial liability to the Charter School to cover damages/replacement costs

Students and parents/guardians should report any misuse of the school Internet/computer system to school administration. All the rules of conduct described in the publication entitled “Internet/Computer Acceptable Use Regulations” apply when on the school Internet or using the school-owned computer/device.