

La Feria Independent School District

Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)



Administrative Policy #5

Revised: August 2022

Exhibit C—Employee Agreement for Acceptable Use of the District's Technology Resources

Note: The District's terms for acceptable use of the District's technology resources are available on the District's website. (www.laferiaisd.org)

You are being given access to the District-provided technology resources listed below. It is important that you read the applicable District policies, administrative regulations, and this agreement form. [See policies CQ and DH, and provisions on use of electronic media in the employee handbook.]

Please contact Daniel De Leon, Technology Director at 956-797-8330 if you have questions or need help understanding this material.

The following guidelines apply to all District networks, email accounts, devices connected to the District's networks, and all District-owned devices used on or off school property, whether connected to the District's network or connected through a personal data plan or other means of access.

Additionally, the District prohibits harassment through electronic means regardless of the device used, the network used, or the location of use. [See District policies DH, DIA, and FFH]

Inappropriate use of the District's technology resources may result in suspension or revocation of the privilege of using these resources, as well as other disciplinary or legal action, in accordance with applicable District policies, administrative regulations, and laws.

You are being given access to the following technology resources:

- A District email account;
- A District email account, including access to cloud-based (online) document storage and collaboration space (*Google Apps for Education, for example*);
- District computer hardware, software, and printers on your school campus;
- District networks, including document storage space;
- Access to District-owned technology resources for use at home; and
- District-filtered internet access.

Please note that the internet is a network of many types of communication and information networks. It is possible that you may run across some material you might find objectionable. While the District will use filtering technology to restrict access to such material, it is not possible to absolutely prevent such access. It will be your responsibility to follow the rules for appropriate use.

If you are being issued a District-owned technology device that can be used off campus, you will be given additional materials addressing the proper use, care, and return of these devices.

Rules for Acceptable Use

- You will be assigned an individual account for access to approved District technology resources, and you are responsible for not sharing your password or other account information with others.
- District-owned devices and personal devices that allow access to District email or potentially sensitive student or employee records must be password-protected.
- District technology resources are primarily for instructional and educational purposes. Limited personal use is allowed only if the rules in this agreement are followed and the use does not interfere with your assigned duties.
- You must comply with the Public Information Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and any other applicable law or policy regarding records retention and confidentiality of student and District records.
- You must maintain the confidentiality of health or personnel information concerning colleagues, unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.
- Please remember that all communications sent through District email accounts may be perceived as communications on behalf of the District. Consequently, all emails sent from District email accounts are subject to the District's acceptable use policy, and an employee who violates the policy may be disciplined accordingly.
- When communicating through email or other electronic means, you must use appropriate language and etiquette as you would when communicating face to face. Always be respectful.
- Only authorized District staff may communicate with District students through electronic means, including social media, email, and text messaging. If you are unsure whether or not you are authorized to communicate with a student through electronic means, ask your supervisor. [See DH]
- Before use on a District device or for a District purpose, digital subscriptions, online learning resources, online applications, or any other program must be approved by the technology coordinator or principal. District staff should not accept terms and conditions or sign user agreements on behalf of the District without preapproval.
- Copies of potentially sensitive or confidential District records should not be sent, viewed, or stored using an online application not approved by the District.
- You must immediately report any suspicious behavior or other misuse of technology to your supervisor or other campus administrator.
- You will be held responsible at all times for the proper use of your account, and the District may suspend or revoke your access if you violate the rules.

Inappropriate Use

The following are examples of inappropriate use of technology resources:

- Using the resources for any illegal purpose, including threatening school safety;
- Accessing the resources to knowingly alter, damage, or delete District property or information, or to breach any other electronic equipment, network, or electronic communications system in violation of the law or District policy;
- Damaging electronic communications systems or electronic equipment, including knowingly or intentionally introducing a virus to a device or network, or not taking proper security steps to prevent a device or network from becoming vulnerable;
- Disabling or attempting to disable or bypass any internet filtering device;
- Encrypting communications to avoid security review;
- Using someone's account without permission;
- Pretending to be someone else when posting, transmitting, or receiving messages;
- Attempting to read, delete, copy, modify, or interfere with another user's posting, transmission, or receipt of electronic media;
- Using resources to engage in conduct that harasses others;
- Sending, posting, or possessing materials that are abusive, obscene, pornographic, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including material that constitutes prohibited harassment and "sexting;"
- Using inappropriate language such as cursing, vulgarity, ethnic or racial slurs, and any other inflammatory language;
- Posting or transmitting pictures of students without obtaining prior permission from all individuals depicted or from parents of depicted students who are under the age of 18;
- Violating others' intellectual property rights, including downloading or using copyrighted information without permission from the copyright holder;
- Wasting school resources through improper use of the District's technology resources, including sending spam; and
- Gaining unauthorized access to restricted information or resources.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use

The following are possible consequences of inappropriate use of technology resources:

- Suspension of access to the District's technology resources;
- Revocation of the account; or
- Other disciplinary or legal action in accordance with the District's policies and applicable laws.

Reporting Violations

- You must immediately report to the technology coordinator any known or suspected violation of the District's applicable policies, cybersecurity plan, internet safety plan, or acceptable use guidelines.
- You must report to the technology director requests for personally identifiable information, as well as any content or communication that is abusive, obscene, pornographic, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal.

Return of Technology Resources and Records

- Upon leaving employment, or upon request from the Superintendent, you must return any District-owned equipment or resources in your possession.
- You must also return any records, written or electronic, to the District for records retention if you have reason to believe you are retaining the sole copy of a record subject to records retention requirements. You must destroy (delete or shred) any other confidential records remaining in your possession.

I understand that my use of the District's technology resources is not private and that the District may monitor my activity.

I have read the District's technology resources policy, associated administrative regulations, and this user agreement and agree to abide by their provisions. In consideration for the privilege of using the District's technology resources, I hereby release the District, its operators, and any institutions with which it is affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my use of, or inability to use, these resources, including, without limitation, the type of damages identified in the District's policy and administrative regulations.

I understand that this user agreement must be renewed each school year.

Employee's name (*print*): _____

Employee's signature: _____

Date _____