

**Descriptor Term: ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Descriptor Code: EFE**

**Presented to the Board: September 25, 2003**

**Adopted by the Board: October 30, 2003**

The Guilford County Board of Education recognizes that technology and the Internet offer students and staff the resources of thousands of computers all over the world and to millions of individual people. Students, teachers, and staff may have access to: 1) electronic mail (e-mail) communication with people all over the world; 2) information and news, some of which may include advertisements, from a variety of sources and research institutions; 3) discussion groups on a wide variety of topics; 4) access to many university libraries, the Library of Congress and other libraries around the world.

Guilford County Schools' Network and Internet connection have been established in the belief that the information and interaction made available are valuable additions to educational resources.

The intent of this policy is to ensure that all uses of the Guilford County Schools' technology and the Internet are consistent with the goals and educational philosophy of the school system. Basic tenets of the policy are:

- The use of technology resources and Internet access is to support research and education and to extend the resources of Guilford County Schools.
- All use of technology must be in support of education, research or enrichment and be consistent with the intended purposes.
- Technology Services is responsible for establishing and users are required to follow all standards, policies, and procedures related to the use of technology in the Guilford County Schools.
- Use of other organization's networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network.
- Transmission of any material in violation of any law or system policy is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, material protected by trade secret, materials used for commercial activities by for-profit institutions, and material used for product advertisement or political lobbying.
- Students, teachers and staff members will be informed of issues regarding network etiquette, security and vandalism with the understanding that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense

or violation of the "Student Code of Conduct," and require appropriate disciplinary action.

- Teachers and each school's Media Advisory Committee will monitor the use of the Internet and will take reasonable measures to ensure use is consistent with the purposes of the Guilford County Schools. This policy represents the standard for acceptable use of electronic media. The tenets of the standard are communicated to parents, guardians, and students with additional notification of the policy by its inclusion in the student handbook. Schools also may develop individualized local regulations regarding use of technology, email, and Internet access on school premises. Supervisors will likewise monitor staff use.
- Guilford County Schools does not endorse or authorize the use of any of its school names in any electronic medium, examples are websites, user groups, uniform resource locators (URL's), unless express written consent is granted by the Guilford County Schools.

**Board Policy EFE along with its Administrative Procedure EFE-P revises and replaces the former Administrative Policy EFE issued June 3, 2002.**

In compliance with federal laws, Guilford County Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law. Refer to the Board of Education's Discrimination Free Environment Policy AC for a complete statement. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Guilford County Schools Compliance Officer, 120 Franklin Boulevard, Greensboro, NC 27401; 336.370.2323.

All Guilford County Schools facilities, both educational and athletic, are tobacco-free learning environments.