

## Paris Independent Schools Internet Safety Plan/Procedure

**Rationale:** While access to computers and the internet have become common place in most households in recent years, the proliferation of smart phones and internet tablet devices has made access to the World Wide Web common place for children of all ages. Whether at school or at home (or with mobile devices, anywhere there is a cell phone signal), children have more access to information than ever before. Proper use of this technology and knowledge of how to navigate the information found on the internet is necessary to insure children can be as safe as possible. Although current Paris Independent School policies and technology plans already address this requirement, a plan is necessary to make sure that all students are taught Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship Skills.

**Background:** The Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act- 2008- included an Internet Safety Training requirement to take effect in July of 2012. This act focuses on "educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response." (Federal Communications Commission, 2011)

**Current Policy:** As required by Kentucky Administrative Regulation, all students (as well as staff and others who access the district network) are required to agree to and sign an Acceptable Use Policy- (AUP). Students' parents are also required to sign this policy. This agreement outlines the correct and incorrect activities when using technology in the schools. That use includes but is not limited to behavior when accessing the Internet.

Along with the AUP listing of the Rights and Responsibilities of the end user, Board Policy includes some district responsibilities regarding the proper training of students in the area of Internet Safety.

Specifically, Board Policy 08.2323 states:

*Students shall be provided instruction about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.*

*Internet safety measures shall be implemented that effectively address the following:*

- *Controlling access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web;*
- *Safety and security of minors when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;*
- *Preventing unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online;*
- *Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and*
- *Restricting minor's access to materials harmful to them.*

*Specific expectations for appropriate Internet use shall be reflected in the District's code of acceptable behavior and discipline, including appropriate orientation for staff and students.*

**Define Digital Citizenship:** As defined by digitalcitizenship.net- Digital Citizenship can be defined as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use. There are nine elements typically associated with Digital Citizenship. They are:

- Digital Access
- Digital Commerce
- Digital Communication
- Digital Literacy
- Digital Etiquette

- Digital Law
- Digital Rights and Responsibilities
- Digital Health and Wellness
- Digital Security (self-protection)

#### Internet Safety Plan/Procedure:

Elementary: Internet Safety will be a teacher led instruction and discussion.

Primary: Teacher led instruction focusing on Digital Etiquette, Access, and Law.

Fourth Grade: Teacher led instruction focusing on Digital Communication, Literacy, and Commerce.

Fifth Grade: Teacher led instruction focusing on Digital Rights and Responsibilities, safety (Security), and Health and Welfare.

Middle School: Internet Safety will be a teacher directed instruction in Computer/Technology/Library Science related classes. Most students take one of these classes yearly. In addition, the middle school may also provide a whole school assembly on Internet Safety. While the topics are the same as the elementary, the topics will be taught at a higher more in-depth level.

Sixth Grade: Teacher led instruction focusing on Digital Access, Health, and Wellness.

Seventh Grade: Teacher led instruction focusing on Digital Communication, Etiquette, and Security (Safety).

Eighth Grade: Teacher led instruction focusing on Digital Rights and Responsibilities, Law, and Commerce.

High School: Internet Safety training will be completed on all nine elements of Digital Citizenship. Students will be required to pass a Digital Driver's License (DDL) type program based on all areas of Digital Citizenship. Continued access to the internet is based upon successful completion of the DDL final exam. Completion will be recorded in the student information database.

Ninth Grade: Completion of lessons on all nine elements and final exam.

Tenth to Twelfth Grade: Successful refresh of the DDL yearly.