

Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy Policy 2023

PURPOSE

In recognition of the fact that students use technology to play, learn, and communicate while at home and at school, it is important that they learn how to use that technology responsibly. The District is committed to educating every student on how to use technology in ways that augment their learning experience, leading to analysis, evaluation, reflection, and enhanced skills of expression. As the District's educators guide exploration of the digital landscape, they will encourage students to be critical and creative thinkers. Students, in turn, are expected to actively engage with and express their voices in the digital landscape.

DEFINITIONS

The District is dedicated to promoting and instilling principles of digital citizenship and media literacy in each of its students.

Digital Citizenship

Digital citizenship includes the norms of appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior related to current technology use, including artificial intelligence, digital and media literacy, ethics, etiquette, and security. Digital citizenship includes the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, develop, produce, and interpret media, as well as Internet safety and cyberbullying prevention and response.

Digital citizens recognize and value the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of living, learning, and working in an interconnected digital world, and they engage in safe, legal, and ethical behaviors. Digital citizens cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation, and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world. They advocate for themselves and others in their behavior, actions, and choices.

Media Literacy

Media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act using a variety of forms of communication, including communications developed with artificial intelligence. Media literacy includes the ability to understand how and why media messages and images are constructed and for what purposes they are used.

Media-literate citizens examine how individuals interpret messages differently based on their skills, beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences. They also consider how values and points of view are included or excluded in various media. Media-literate citizens remain continually aware of the ways in which media can influence beliefs and behavior. In addition, media-literate citizens are effective communicators, able to demonstrate critical and creative thinking as they utilize appropriate media creation tools. Further, they understand the conventions and characteristics of the tools they have selected.

Media-literate citizens are able to adapt to changing technologies and develop the new skills required as they continue to engage in life-long learning. Media literacy empowers individuals to participate as informed and active citizens in a democracy.

ELEMENTS OF SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

The District aspires to implement the following practices to promote digital citizenship and media literacy for all students.

Student instruction

The district aspires to implement the following practices to promote digital citizenship and media literacy for all students.

To prepare students for success in a rapidly evolving digital world, our district is committed to a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate integration of digital citizenship and media literacy across

all grade levels. Through cross-curricular instruction beginning in elementary school and continuing through secondary education, students will build the critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and technical skills needed to safely, responsibly, and thoughtfully engage in online environments, digital communities, and media-rich contexts. This scope and sequence ensures that digital citizenship, digital literacy, media literacy, and AI literacy are embedded intentionally across content areas and grade bands to support lifelong learning and civic readiness.

Districtwide practices will include:

- **K–5:** Foundational instruction in digital citizenship and digital literacy delivered by STEAM teachers, including safe technology use, respectful online behavior, recognizing media types, and understanding media creators' intent.
- **Grade 6:** A dedicated “Intro to Computers” course introducing responsible research, digital collaboration, online safety, and foundational concepts in AI and media analysis.
- **Grade 9:** Integration into Health to explore digital wellness, identity, privacy, and ethical use of digital tools and media in addition to Media Literacy skills. Tech Tools class which explores Digital and AI Literacy in the use of essential digital skills, tools, collaboration and content creation.
- **Grades 7–12:** Embedded media and AI literacy instruction through ELA, Social Studies, and elective courses, with a focus on evaluating credibility, recognizing bias, and understanding media influence on individuals and society.
- **Grades 10–12:** Application of advanced digital, media, and AI literacy through civics, CTE, addressing topics such as algorithmic bias, ethical technology use.
- **All grade bands:** Ongoing emphasis on safe, ethical, and informed participation in digital environments aligned to state and national standards, including Washington’s Educational Technology Learning Standards and ISTE.

All students will be educated regarding appropriate digital citizenship, including appropriate use of artificial intelligence and interacting with other individuals online. Students will receive digital citizenship training throughout the school year.

In recognition of the fact that students are consumers and creators of information and ideas, the District promotes cross-curricular integration of digital citizenship and media literacy and leadership instruction at all levels. The District recognizes the importance of students as active participants, role models, and peer mentors in addressing the following topics:

Online safety, responsibility, and security

Students will learn how to be safe and responsible digital citizens, and they will be encouraged to teach others about issues such as cyberbullying, social networking, online predators, and risky communications. Lessons on online safety issues, including cyberbullying awareness/response will be provided according to 2022/2022P – Electronic Resources and Internet Safety.

Media literacy

Students will learn how to produce their own media; how to examine the ways in which people experience or interact with media differently; how to identify embedded values and stereotypes; how to analyze words and images critically; and how to evaluate the various sources of information with which they are presented.

Law, fair use, copyright, and intellectual property

Students will learn about the importance of navigating the digital landscape in ways that are legal, including access to and use of copyrighted materials. Students will also learn how to access and create intellectual property legally.

Online identity and personal brand

Students will learn about their “digital footprint” and the persistence of their digital information, including on social media. Students will also learn about the creation and maintenance of their

self-image, reputation, and online identity.

Ethics, digital communications, and collaboration

Students will learn about fairness and civil discourse in the digital environment, including the appropriate uses of artificial intelligence and the importance of collaborating and ethically interacting with others online.

Professional Development

The District endeavors to support teachers and instructional leaders in developing leadership skills and proficiency in the principles of digital citizenship and media literacy, both as an instructional imperative and as dynamic District policy and practice.

Policy and Practices

The District acknowledges the need for digital and online policies that are dynamic and responsive to diverse community standards and student learning outcomes. The District annually reviews its policies and procedures on electronic resources, Internet safety, digital citizenship, and media literacy. The District authorizes the Superintendent to develop further procedures and guidelines if appropriate.

Communications and Engagement

The District acknowledges that parents/caregivers and community stakeholders are partners in developing students as digital citizens and life-long learners. The District encourages parents/caregivers' active engagement in the process of educating students to become media-literate digital citizens.

Cross References:	Policy 2020	Course Design, Selection, and Adoption of Instructional Materials
	Policy 2022	Electronic Resources and Internet Safety
	Policy 2025	Copyright Compliance
	Policy 3207	Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying of Students
	Policy 3231	Student Records
	Policy 3241	Student Discipline
	Policy 4040	Public Access to District Records
	Policy 4400	Election Activities
Legal References:	Policy 5281	Disciplinary Action and Discharge
	RCW 28A.650.045	Digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy
Management Resources:	RCW 28A.650.010	Definitions
	<i>Policy & Legal</i>	
	<i>News</i>	
	2024 - Mar	
	2017 - Dec	

Adopted: 07.14.25

Revised: