Hampton City Schools

Internet Safety Program

Hampton City Schools' Internet Safety Vision: Create an educational technology environment that promotes safe and wise Internet use.

Hampton City Schools' Acceptable Use Policy: Policies and guidelines for the Internet, division networks, computers and related technology, and communication resources. See Hampton City Schools' policy GBBC.

Overview

Hampton City Schools is committed to keeping our students safe on the Internet. A filter is used to monitor and prevent access to inappropriate resources. Although our filter alone does not guarantee students will not find inappropriate resources, Hampton City Schools continuously takes all necessary steps to assure appropriate resources.

Internet safety is integrated throughout the K-12 curriculum program to ensure compliance with Va. Code § 22.1-70.2. This has been accomplished using the iSafe program (E-Rate level), which has been endorsed by the U.S. Congress. Access from schools to Internet resources are structured in ways which direct students to sites evaluated prior to use. As students move beyond those resources, they will be subject to supervision and guidance in an effort to provide Internet use that is appropriate to the learning objectives. Internet activities and lessons created by Hampton City Schools teachers are assessable to all HCS teachers.

Internet safety is expanded to the community via PTA meetings, iSafe programs, after school workshops, community forums, information at the YMCA, links on the HCS homepage, and the Virginia State sponsored Professor Garfield Foundation Internet Safety program.

Individual school's web sites provide Internet Safety Tips, homework help, and classroom resources.

Teachers have created Portaportals pages with additional Internet Safety Tips, homework help, and classroom resources.

Program Components

Hampton City Schools has a yearly campaign to inform students, parents, staff and the community how to stay safe on the internet. In addition, HCS has integrated internet safety into the curriculum and into staff training,

Training for staff: Internet safety programs are offered through school based staff meetings and on professional development days.

Instruction for students: Nettrekker, an educational search engine that ensures safe and academically relevant information, is provided for all students. The Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook code of student Conduct (JF) addresses student safety.

Filter for Internet Access: Access to the Internet is filtered for content that is obscene, depicts pornography, is harmful to minors, or is deemed inappropriate for minors.

Security of data on HCS network: The network is monitored. A firewall is in place to prevent inappropriate access to HCS data.

Presentations for parents and community members: Internet safety presentations are available for all PTA and community meetings, information is offered at the YMCA and numerous links to internet safety sites are available on the HCS homepage.

Policy and agreements for appropriate use of the Internet and networked resources by students and staff: HCS has acceptable use and guidelines for the internet, division networks, computers, and related technology and communications resources, to include phone and email use, and cyberbullying. These policies can be accessed from the HCS main homepage.

Roles and Responsibilities

Acceptable use and guidelines for the internet, division networks, computers, and related technology and communications resources.

Administrators: The administrators will guide the implementation process of the Internet Safety Policy and Program. They will respond to any cyberbullying claims. They will confirm that the Acceptable Use Policies and Guidelines are followed and enforced.

Teachers: The classroom teacher is responsible for collaborating with the CITT and teacher librarian to implement Internet Safety in the classroom. They will be familiar with and report all claims of cyberbullying.

Curriculum Integration Technology Teachers (CITT) and Library Media Specialists: The CITT and teacher librarian will promote, model, and train faculty, teachers, and students on Internet Safety. They will research, validate, and provide Internet activities, lessons, and resources. They will be familiar with and report all claims of cyberbullying.

School Counselors: Be familiar with and report all claims of cyberbullying. Offer additional resources to students, parents and teachers on Internet safety and cyberbullying.

Information Technology Department Staff: This group is responsible for coordinating and establishing support to assure that safety and wise Internet use is integrated into our educational environment.

Updates and Revisions of the Internet Safety Program

The Department of Instructional Technology, with the assistance of the Internet Safety Committee, will review the Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Safety Program as part of the annual assessment of the HCS Technology Plan. This assessment will include a review of individual roles and responsibilities as pertains to this program, a review of trends for numbers and severity of AUP violations, a review of data for security violations to determine what, if any, modifications are required to the current program and policy, and a review of current VDOE guidelines and state legislation against current program to ensure consistency. As a result of this assessment, the Department of Information Technology will determine the need for program or policy changes. If changes to policy are necessary, documents will be updated for school board approval so that they are in place prior to the start of the next school year.

Internet Safety Committee Members

Director of Technology, Network System Administrator, Assistant Network Administrator, Title I Coordinator, Instructional Technology Teacher Specialists, Professional Development Coordinator, Principal, Local Database Manager, Director of School Counseling, and Community Member