

**Regulation IFBG-R(2): Internet Acceptable Use - Social Media**

Status:

Original Adopted Date:

**Purpose:** To provide additional guidance pursuant to the Internet Acceptable Use Policy and Procedures regarding social media platform access by minors and to promote appropriate use of technology and responsible digital citizenship within the Towns County School System.

**Social Media Use By Students :**

Students are prohibited from accessing social media platforms through the use of computer equipment, communications services, or internet access that is operated, owned, leased, and made available to students by the Towns County School System.

Students shall be permitted to access social media platforms only:

1. As directed by school personnel;
2. For the exclusive purpose of accessing and utilizing age-appropriate educational resources;
3. Under the supervision of such school personnel; and
4. During the course of a school related activity.

While using social media platforms with permission, students will follow all provisions of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy IFBG and Procedures IFBG-R(1), as well as the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

**School System Responsibilities:**

The School System will establish appropriate measures to be taken when a student violates such policy.

The School System will establish procedures for parents/guardians to:

1. Request information from school personnel about what social media platforms have been or are intended to be accessed with permission as described above; and
2. Prohibit their child(ren) from accessing one or more social media platforms as provided as described above.

The School System will take appropriate steps to implement and enforce the Social Media Policy, which shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Use of software programs and other technologies reasonably designed and intended to block and monitor access to social media platforms; and
2. Selection of online servers that block and monitor access to social media platforms.

**Definitions:**

**"Social Media Platform":** "Social media platform" has the same meaning as defined in Code Section 39-6-1, and means an online forum that allows an account holder to create a profile, upload posts, view and listen to posts, form mutual connections, and interact publicly and privately with other account holders and users. Such term shall **not** include an online service, website, or application where the predominant or exclusive function is any of the following:

- (A) Email;
- (B) A service that, pursuant to its terms of use, does not permit minors to use the platform and utilizes commercially reasonable age assurance mechanisms to deter minors from becoming account holders;
- (C) A streaming service that provides only licensed media that is not user-generated in a continuous flow from the service, website, or application to the end user and does not obtain a license to the media from a user or account holder by agreement to its terms of service;
- (D) News, sports, entertainment, or other content that is preselected by the provider and not user-generated, and any chat, comment, or interactive functionality that is provided incidental to or directly or indirectly related to such content;
- (E) Online shopping or ecommerce, if the interaction with other users or account holders is generally limited to the ability to upload a post and comment on reviews, the ability to display lists or collections of goods for sale

or wish lists, and other functions that are focused on online shopping or ecommerce rather than interaction between users or account holders;

(F) Interactive gaming, virtual gaming, or an online service, website, or application that allows the creation and uploading of content for the purpose of interactive gaming, educational entertainment, or associated entertainment, and communications related to that content;

(G) Photograph editing that has an associated photograph hosting service if the interaction with other users or account holders is generally limited to liking or commenting;

(H) Single-purpose community groups for public safety if the interaction with other users or account holders is limited to that single purpose and the community group has guidelines or policies against illegal content;

(I) Business-to-business software;

(J) Teleconferencing or videoconferencing services that allow reception and transmission of audio and video signals for real-time communication;

(K) Cloud storage;

(L) Shared document collaboration;

(M) Cloud computing services, which may include cloud storage and shared document collaboration;

(N) Providing access to or interacting with data visualization platforms, libraries, or hubs;

(O) Permitting comments on a digital news website if the news content is posted only by the provider of the digital news website;

(P) Providing or obtaining technical support for a platform, product, or service;

(Q) Academic, scholarly, or genealogical research where the majority of the content is created or posted by the provider of the online service, website, or application and the ability to chat, comment, or interact with other users is directly related to the provider's content;

(R) Internet access and broadband service;

(S) A classified advertising service in which the provider of the online service, website, or application is limited to all of the following: (i) Permitting only the sale of goods; (ii) Prohibiting the solicitation of personal services; (iii) Posting or creating a substantial amount of the content; and (iv) Providing the ability to chat, comment, or interact with other users only if it is directly related to the provider's content;

(T) An online service, website, or application that is used by or under the direction of an educational entity, including a learning management system, student engagement program, or subject- or skill-specific program, where the majority of the content is created or posted by the provider of the online service, website, or application and the ability to chat, comment, or interact with other users is directly related to the provider's content;

(U) Peer-to-peer payments, provided that interactions among users or account holders are generally limited to the ability to send, receive, or request funds; like or comment on such transactions; or other functions related to sending, receiving, requesting, or settling payments among users or account holders; or

(V) Career development opportunities, including professional networking, job skills, learning certifications, and job posting and application services.

---