

NOTE: This is an example of a social media policy for discussion in local school units. There are legal implications with such policies, so legal counsel should be consulted in the development of such policies.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

The School Board recognizes that social media sites have become important means of communication with potential pedagogical value. This policy sets forth expectations for school employees when using social media for school-related and personal purposes. Employees are expected to preserve the integrity of the learning environment and shall maintain professional boundaries with students at all times.

"Social media" shall mean technology and/or Internet-based tool(s) for sharing and/or discussing information among users, and includes, but is not limited to, web pages, social networking, blogs, forums, social bookmarking, image sharing applications, and social news sites.

A. Approval Procedure

The use of social media for school-related purposes requires pre-approval in accordance with this policy.

A school employee who desires to use social media for school-related purposes shall submit a proposal and request for approval to his/her building principal/supervisor. Proposals for the school-related use of social media should include an articulated educational purpose and be appropriate to the students' ages, level(s) of understanding, and range(s) of knowledge. Use of social media with students is limited to grades seven and higher. Any student under 13 needs parent permission to access approved social media.

The building principal/supervisor or designee may approve, deny, or approve with modification the proposal. The decision of the building principal/supervisor will be in writing and shall be final. Any later modifications to a proposal that has been approved must also be pre-approved by the building principal/supervisor. The building principal/supervisor may withdraw his or her approval at any time for any reason.

Approved proposals for the school-related use of social media shall be resubmitted annually by September 30th for review.

B. Terms of Use

The school-related use of social media approved in accordance with this policy shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Content on approved social media shall at all times comply with school unit policies, procedures and guidelines as well as with any applicable state and federal laws (including confidentiality laws).

