



Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Introduction

It is the policy of Voyager Academy to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Voyager Academy provides Internet access to support education and research. Access to the Internet is a privilege subject to restrictions set by the Board of Directors. For students and staff, violation of any provisions in the Internet Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy (AUP) may result in disciplinary action and/or cancellation of access to the Voyager Academy network. This policy applies to all Internet access on Voyager property, including Internet access using mobile devices, and including access by staff, students, and visitors to the Voyager campus. Students' internet usage is permitted only in the presence and supervision of a teacher or other designated adult.

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage and Prohibited Content

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the

Voyager Academy online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, and North Carolina General Statute 143-805, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes:

- Unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors
- Viewing of pornography on school networks or school-owned/controlled devices **Pornography Prohibition:** In compliance with North Carolina General Statute 143-805: • Voyager Academy prohibits employees from viewing pornography on school networks (regardless of device ownership)
- Voyager Academy prohibits employees, officials, appointees, and students from viewing pornography on any device owned, leased, maintained, or controlled by the school
- Violations of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with established procedures

This prohibition does not apply to employees performing specific official duties outlined in G.S. 143-805(d), such as law enforcement activities, cybersecurity protection, or judicial proceedings.

Education, Supervision, and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Managing Director or designated representatives.

The Managing Director or designated representatives will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the Voyager Academy's Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote Voyager Academy's commitment to:

- a. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the

Voyager Academy's Internet Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy;

b. Student safety with regard to:

- i. safety on the Internet;
- ii. appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and
- iii. cyberbullying awareness and response.

c. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA").

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the Voyager's acceptable use policies

Safety and Ethical Use

Although Voyager uses resources to protect against exposure to inappropriate material, there is always a risk of students accessing such materials. Although it may still be possible to access inappropriate material, Voyager feels the educational benefit provided by the Internet outweighs any possible disadvantages. We encourage parents to talk with their students about sites and material which the parents believe are inappropriate. Voyager cannot accept responsibility for enforcing specific parental restrictions that go beyond those imposed by the school.

Students are prohibited from using or accessing Internet sites containing pornographic, violent or other unacceptable content either at school or at home using school-owned computers/technology/electronic devices. Accessing, producing, posting, displaying or sending offensive message, music or images, including images of exposed body parts is prohibited. Offensive material includes but is not limited to obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude or sexually suggestive language or images.

Students who bring their own devices to campus are encouraged to take reasonable precautions to ensure the security of those devices. This includes operating system updates and virus scanning.

Any internet user must take reasonable precautions to protect themselves online. Students, staff, and visitors should use the following guidelines:

Email, forums, instant messaging, and other online messaging

- Never share personal information online. This includes, but is not limited to: real full name, postal address, social security number, and passwords. Sharing the information of another individual, especially minors, is unethical, strictly forbidden, and may be unlawful. In the case of students, the privacy of student educational data is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). When in doubt, do not release student data and consult a school administrator for further

advice.

- Special care must be taken when sending mass emails. Email addresses themselves are private information, and improper mass emailing can result in inadvertent sharing of addresses. Improper mass emailing can also allow recipients to reply to the mass message and send their own messages to the entire group. This is preventable by using a blind carbon copy (Bcc) feature or a mass emailing service. It is the responsibility of all Voyager staff and students to use Bcc or a mass emailing service and to protect private information and data when sending mass emails.

Unauthorized access / hacking and general unlawful activity

- Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to Voyager resources, or using Voyager resources to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized access to outside systems is unethical, unlawful, and forbidden. This includes bypassing the internet filter without permission or purposefully gaining access to material that is harmful to minors.
- Assuming the online identity of another individual for any purpose is unethical and forbidden.
- Use of Voyager resources for any unlawful purpose, including, but not limited to, copyright infringement, is unethical and forbidden.

Academic integrity

- Students are expected to follow all Board and school handbook policies regarding academic integrity when using technology.

Harassment and Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying may involve any of these behaviors:

1. Accessing, producing, posting, sending, or displaying material that is offensive in nature on the internet
2. Harassing, insulting, or attacking others on the Internet
3. Posting personal or private information about other individuals on the Internet
4. Posting information on the Internet that could disrupt the school environment cause damage, or endanger students or staff
5. Concealing one's identity in any way, including the use of anonymization tools or another individual's credentials/online identity, to participate in any of the behaviors listed above.

The principals will determine whether or not specific incidents of cyberbullying have impacted the school's climate or the welfare of its students and appropriate consequences will be issued. Voyager is not responsible for electronic communication that originates off campus but reserves the right, consistent with the law, to address conduct that occurs off school grounds where that conduct substantially disrupts the educational environment at Voyager or interferes with a student's learning at Voyager. Cyber bullying will be handled in accordance with Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy.

BYOD Program

BYOD stands for “Bring Your Own Device”. It is a strategy for providing personal computing in business and education where the end user (employee, student), as opposed to the organization, provides, owns, and maintains his/her own device. It is typical in universities and colleges, and is gaining in popularity in K-12 education and businesses.

Each student in grades 6-12 is required to provide his or her own device for personal use both at school and at home, with exceptions for families with demonstrated financial hardship.

Access to a computer is essential to learning at Voyager Academy. The student’s personal device is considered an essential school supply, just as pencils and paper traditionally have been. Students are required to be prepared at the start of each school day with their fully charged and functional devices. This is considered a part of being prepared to learn.

As with all technology at Voyager Academy, students are required to follow the Internet Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy and the Technology Use Policy when using their personal devices.

Voyager will maintain a sufficient pool of short-term loaner devices for extenuating circumstances, such as a computer being out for repair. Loans will be day-long only. Students who need a loaner should check one out from building administration (usually the building Assistant Principal) before the start of first period, and return it before returning home. The loaner devices do not go home with students unless no other option, such as a shared family computer, is available. If an issue with a student device occurs in the middle of the day, the student may check out a loaner immediately.

Students who are unprepared with their devices will follow the following consequence schedule:

1st Instance: Verbal warning from teacher

2nd Instance: Verbal warning from teacher and parent contact

3rd Instance: Lunch detention and parent contact

4th Instance: Referral to building administration

5th Instance: Conference with student, parent(s), and building administration. Students whose computers are out for repair are exempt from this schedule. A separate document details device requirements and contains some model recommendations. The document is also available on the Voyager website. Requirements are minimal, and there are many very affordable options that meet them.

Cell phones do not meet the device requirements and are not acceptable as a student computing device. Furthermore, the use of 3G/4G hotspots on campus is prohibited. Students must deactivate any hotspots while on campus, and must connect personal computing devices to Voyager’s wireless network.

In addition to day-to-day schoolwork, students will use their personal devices for examinations, including End-of-Grade and End-of-Course tests, and North Carolina Final Exams. As such, students will be required to install any testing software and make any configuration changes required by the examination platform(s) being used. Voyager staff will assist students in making these changes in advance of test days.

The BYOD program should not be a barrier to learning for any Voyager student. Families who are unable to financially provide a computer for their student(s) should contact the School Social Worker directly.

Adoption

This Internet Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board of Voyager Academy at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on April 27, 2023.

Revised: September 25, 2025