
CITIZENSHIP IN A DIGITAL AGE

Background

As the Division commits to providing anywhere/anytime learning opportunities, it is critical that Division teachers and students are familiar with the responsibilities of being digitally connected citizens. Teachers must be aware of the impacts of student participation in the digital world so that they can recognize teachable moments that arise as students explore and create in an online environment. Students must become aware of the benefits and risks that are associated with digital interactions and that ultimately they themselves must be able to make responsible choices and decisions as they navigate and interact within the digital world. Staff and students in the Division are expected to become responsible citizens in a digital age.

In the Division, this behaviour is consistent with the existing Administrative Procedure 140 – Digital Technology, Form 140-01 – Acceptable Use Agreement, Administrative Procedure 145 – Use of Personal Electronic Devices on School Premises, and Administrative Procedure 350 – Student Conduct.

Definitions

A digital citizen is an individual who interacts with other individuals using digital tools and resources such as cell phones, computers of varying types and the internet. The digital citizen is aware of and practices proper behaviours and socially accepted conventions in these online interactions. A digital citizen is a person who has developed the skills and habits that promote positive interactions with others in the digital world.

Digital citizenship education includes planned instruction for students and professional development for staff on the proper use of digital resources and technologies to develop skills and behaviours that enable them to become digital citizens who interact with others online in a manner that is consistent with the Division policies and Administrative Procedures.

Procedures

1. The Principal will ensure the school has a plan for professional learning to enable the staff to provide integrated, grade appropriate instruction that will support the development of responsible digital citizens.
2. Teachers shall demonstrate and model digital citizenship best practices and provide appropriate instruction for their students.
3. Students and staff will be responsible and accountable for their online behavior and conduct.
4. Staff and student online practices shall be consistent with the appropriate Division Staff/Student Acceptable Use Agreement.

5. Student use of Division provided digital devices, network, software and online resources shall be consistent with the following administrative procedures:
- Administrative Procedure 140 – Digital Technology;
 - Administrative Procedure 142 – Citizenship in a Digital Age;
 - Administrative Procedure 145 – Use of Personal Electronic Devices on School Premises;
 - Administrative Procedure 350 – Student Conduct; and
 - Form 140-01 – Acceptable Use Agreement

Reference: Section 18,33,52,53,68,196,197,204,222,225 Education Act
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Canadian Criminal Code
Copyright Act
Alberta Education
ATA Code of Professional Conduct

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