

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The board recognizes that a wide variety of telecommunications hardware and software products are now available that can impact the learning of students, the productivity of staff and the safety of students and adults. The board supports the inclusion of telecommunications infrastructure into the school culture and climate.

TELEPHONES

Local and long-distance telephone service is available to administrators and teachers in each attendance center for conducting school business and communicating with parents. Students may use on-campus pay phones or school phones under the supervision of an adult. Telephone service is paid for by the school district. Telephone infrastructure is maintained by the local telephone cooperative.

ANSWERING MACHINES

Answering machine functionality is part of telephone service paid for by the school district and is maintained by the local telephone cooperative.

CELLULAR PHONES

Local and long-distance cellular phones and service are available to selected certified and classified staff that can benefit from the convenience and portability of such a phone. Cellular phones and service are paid for by the school district. Cellular phones are maintained by the local vendor.

TWO-WAY RADIOS

Two-way radios are available to selected certified and classified staff who can benefit from the convenience and portability of such a radio. Each vehicle in the district's transportation fleet is equipped with a two-way radio. These radios minimize the effect that weather and mechanical problems have on safely transporting students to and from school. Two-way radios are paid for and maintained by the school district.

COMPUTERS

Computers are available to students in labs, media centers, and classrooms for learning keyboarding, computing skills, productivity tools, and research. Computers are available to certified and classified staff for administrative tasks, productivity tools, and communication. Computers are purchased by the district and maintained by the vendor and district IT support staff. All computers are on a five-year replacement rotation. All computer users are governed by the district's COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION policy IIBG.

SOFTWARE

All software on district computers is placed there by the district for educational, research, productivity or administrative uses. It is the property of the district. Software licenses are maintained and recorded by district IT support staff.

INTERNET

The district's Wide Area Network (WAN) and Local Area Networks (LAN's) make the resources on the Internet available to all district computers.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA)

In keeping with the provisions of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), all district computers have access to the Internet filtered by Sonic Wall appliances. Sonic Wall appliances are paid for and maintained by South Dakota state government through its Homeland Security Initiative.

FIREWALLS

To prevent access to district WAN and LANs by hackers and unauthorized intruders, all traffic is monitored by Sonic Wall appliances. Sonic Wall appliances are paid for and maintained by South Dakota state government through its Homeland Security Initiative.

VIRUS PROTECTION

To protect district computers from damage by viruses, worms, Trojan Horses and other malicious software, district computers are equipped with Symantec Antivirus Software. This software is paid for by South Dakota state government through its Homeland Security Initiative.

DISTANCE LEARNING

The district supports the placement of a Digital Dakota Network (DDN) video conferencing studio within the district. This facility is available to classroom teachers, students, and the community for distance learning, professional development, meetings and enrichment activities. DDN studio equipment is owned and maintained by the state of South Dakota with the support of district IT staff.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The board believes that telecommunications infrastructure can serve the needs of education by providing ways for parents and teachers to communicate about students and their progress: telephone homework hotlines, school websites, teacher websites, Family Access Grade Book, teacher and administrator email.

ADOPTION DATE: July 12, 2004