Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Purpose

Scintilla Charter Academy (SCA) provides access to technology resources—including but not limited to iPads, Chromebooks, ClassVR Goggles, and Google accounts—to support instruction, innovation, and communication. These tools are intended to enhance mastery of Georgia Department of Education standards, foster creativity, and prepare scholars for success in a digital world.

Privilege

The use of SCA's technology resources is a **privilege, not a right**. Scholars, staff, and any other persons who access SCA's network or devices are expected to act responsibly, ethically, and in compliance with this policy. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary consequences, loss of access, or referral to legal authorities.

Legal Compliance

In accordance with **O.C.G.A. 20-2-324** and **Senate Bill 93**:

SCA strictly prohibits the use of school equipment to access, send, receive, view, or download:

  - Obscene materials
  - Child pornography
  - Material harmful to minors
- SCA prohibits installation, use, or access of certain social media platforms identified as being owned, operated, or influenced by a foreign adversary (e.g., TikTok).
- Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary measures for students and employees, up to and including suspension, termination, and/or legal action.
- Any **non-student, non-employee individual** who violates this policy will lose access to SCA's technology resources and may be reported to appropriate authorities.

Filtering and Monitoring

SCA uses filtering and monitoring systems to restrict inappropriate content. No system is 100% secure; therefore, all users are accountable for their online behavior. Each scholar is issued a unique login, and all internet activity is tracked and monitored.

Enforcement & Complaints

- Enforcement: SCA administration will investigate and address violations promptly. Disciplinary consequences will follow the school's Code of Conduct and staff handbooks.
- Complaints: Concerns regarding violations or misuse should be reported immediately to a teacher or administrator.
- Expedited Review: If a scholar or staff member believes access to educationally appropriate content is being blocked in error, they may request a review. Administration will ensure a timely review and resolution.

Expectations for Scholars

SCA Scholars will:

1. Use technology only with teacher permission and for school purposes.
2. Show respect and never engage in cyberbullying.
3. Protect personal information (name, address, phone number, photos, etc.).
4. Report inappropriate content or behavior to a teacher immediately.
5. Use respectful, appropriate language online.
6. Avoid chat rooms, instant messaging, or unauthorized communication tools.
7. Not download or install software without permission.
8. Not change computer/device settings.
9. Not use portable drives without teacher permission.
10. Use only their assigned username and password.
11. Log off devices after use.
12. Handle all devices with care to prevent damage.