

AP 3720 Computer and Network Use

Reference: ***Education Code Section 70902; Board Policies 3720, 4030; Title 5 Sections 58050, 58164, 58168, 58170, 58172; Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 16, 26, 33, 34, 37, 45***

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Overview

The District Computer and Network systems are the sole property of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. They may not be used by any person without the proper authorization of the District. The Computer and Network systems are for District instructional and work related purposes only.

This procedure applies to all District students, employees, officers and others granted use of District information resources. This procedure refers to all District information resources whether individually controlled or shared, stand-alone or networked. It applies to all computer and computer communication facilities owned, leased, operated, or contracted by the District. This includes personal computers, workstations, mainframes, minicomputers, and associated peripherals, software and information resources, regardless of whether used for administration, research, teaching or other purposes.

Nondiscrimination Statement of Principles

All users have the right to be free from any conduct connected with the use of Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (GCCCD) computing systems which discriminates against any person. Discriminatory conduct includes, but is not limited to, written or graphic conduct that satisfies one of the following conditions: (1) harasses, denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group based on that person's gender, sexual orientation, race, color, national origin or disability, or (2) has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile, intimidating, or offensive environment. "Harassing conduct" and "hostile environment" are defined below:

- "Harassing conduct" includes, but is not limited to, the following: epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts, that relate to race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. This includes acts that purport to be "jokes" or "pranks," but that are hostile or demeaning.
- A "hostile environment" is established when harassing conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the GCCCD computing systems (*refer to Administrative Procedure AP 3410 Nondiscrimination*).

Any user who believes he or she has been subject to a hostile environment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability may inform the system administrator or the appropriate college or district administrator. Upon receiving any such complaint, GCCCD will process the complaint in accordance with established grievance procedures.

Academic Freedom

Users of these systems have rights that may be protected by federal, state, and local laws. This procedure shall not be interpreted in a manner which would abrogate any provision of the District Policy on Academic Freedom (Board Policy 4030).

Conditions of Use

Basic conditions of use are also defined by the *Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California* (CENIC)/California Research and Education Network (CalREN) Acceptable Use Policy. The District adheres to basic conditions of use and industry standards as defined by CENIC/CalREN. The District may define additional conditions of use. Refer to Operating Procedure IS 11.

Legal Process

This procedure exists within the framework of the District Board Policy and state and federal laws. A user of District information resources who is found to have violated any of these policies will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including but not limited to loss of information resources privileges; disciplinary suspension or termination from employment or expulsion and/or civil or criminal legal action.

Copyrights and Licenses

Computer users must respect copyrights and licenses to software and other on-line information.

- Copying – Software protected by copyright may not be copied except as expressly permitted by the owner of the copyright or otherwise permitted by copyright law. Protected software may not be copied into, from, or by any District facility or system, except pursuant to a valid license or as otherwise permitted by copyright law.
- Number of Simultaneous Users – The number and distribution of copies must be handled in such a way that does not violate the licensing rules for the product.
- Copyrights – In addition to software, all other copyrighted information (text, images, icons, programs, etc.) retrieved from computer or network resources must be used in conformance with applicable copyright and other law. Copied material must be properly attributed. Plagiarism of computer information is prohibited in the same way that plagiarism of any other protected work is prohibited.

Integrity of Information Resources

Computer users must respect the integrity of computer-based information resources.

- Modification or Removal of Equipment – Computer users must not attempt to modify or remove computer equipment, software, or peripherals without proper authorization from District Information Systems.
- Unauthorized Use – Computer users must not interfere with others' access and use of the District computers. This includes but is not limited to: the sending of chain letters or excessive messages, either locally or off-campus; printing excess copies of documents, files, data, or programs, running grossly inefficient programs when efficient alternatives are known by the user to be available; unauthorized modification of system facilities, operating systems, of disk partitions; attempting to crash or tie up a District computer or network; and damaging or vandalizing District computing facilities, equipment, software or computer files.

- Unauthorized Programs – Computer users must not intentionally develop or use programs (including spam, viruses and worms) which disrupt other computer users or which access private or restricted portions of the system, or which damage the software or hardware components of the system. Computer users must ensure that they do not use programs or utilities that interfere with other computer users or that modify normally protected or restricted portions of the system or user accounts. The use of any unauthorized or destructive program will result in disciplinary action as provided in this procedure, and may further lead to civil or criminal legal proceedings.

Unauthorized Access

Computer users must not seek to gain unauthorized access to information resources and must not assist any other persons to gain unauthorized access.

- Abuse of Computing Privileges – Users of District information resources must not access computers, computer software, computer data or information, or networks without proper authorization, or intentionally enable others to do so, regardless of whether the computer, software, data, information, or network in question is owned by the District. For example, abuse of the networks to which the District belongs or the computers at other sites connected to those networks will be treated as an abuse of District computing privileges.
- Reporting Problems – Any defects discovered in system security must be reported promptly to the Information Systems Department so that steps can be taken to investigate and solve the problem.
- Password Protection – A computer user who has been authorized to use a password-protected account may be subject to both civil and criminal liability if the user discloses the password or otherwise makes the account available to others without permission of the Information Systems Department with the exception that users may designate others to access their e-mail and voice mail accounts.

Usage

Computer users must respect the rights of other computer users. Attempts to circumvent these mechanisms in order to gain unauthorized access to the system or to another person's information are a violation of District procedure and may violate applicable law.

- Unlawful Messages – Users may not use electronic communication facilities to send defamatory, fraudulent, harassing, obscene, threatening, or other messages that violate applicable federal, state or other law, Student Code of Conduct or District policy, or which constitute the unauthorized release of confidential information.
- Commercial Usage – Electronic communication facilities may not be used to transmit commercial or personal advertisements, solicitations or promotions (see Commercial Use, below.)
- Information Belonging to Others – Users must not intentionally seek or provide information on, obtain copies of, or modify data files, programs, or passwords belonging to other users, without the permission of those other users. This type of information includes course-specific materials for purposes other than those intended by the instructor.

- Rights of Individuals – Users must not release any individual's (student, faculty, and staff) personal information to anyone without proper authorization.
- User Identification – Users shall not send unauthorized communications or messages anonymously or without accurately identifying the originating account or station. Examples of permissible anonymous communications are student evaluations and responses to accreditation surveys.
- Political, Personal and Commercial Use – The District is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and, as such, is subject to specific federal, state and local laws regarding sources of income, political activities, use of property and similar matters. Political activities shall not include the dissemination of course-related materials discussing, presenting, or analyzing political positions, opinions or commentaries. In addition, District information technology resources must not be used for partisan political activities where prohibited by federal, state or other applicable laws, or District policies.
- Personal Use – District information resources should not be used for personal activities not related to appropriate District functions. Incidental uses may be allowed and may include checking non-district e-mail accounts, the weather, traffic, news, stocks, etc. for a brief period of time at the discretion of legitimate supervision. Certain computers may be designated for “public use” and non-District functions are allowed. Examples of public use areas include specified workstations in labs, wireless hot spots, etc.
- Commercial Use – District information resources may not be used for commercial purposes. Individual personal advertisements in authorized internal newsletters will not be considered a commercial purpose. Users also are reminded that the “.cc” and “.edu” domains on the Internet have rules restricting or prohibiting commercial use, and users shall abide by the rule governing those domains.

Disclosure

- District Access to Network Computers – The District will exercise the right to access all uses of the District network and computers only for legitimate District purposes, including, but not limited to, ensuring compliance with this procedure; or integrity and security of the system; or to access District information when an employee is out sick or otherwise not on duty; or in response to a subpoena or court order. In addition, users should also be aware that Information Systems, contractor or external agency personnel may have incidental access to data contained in or transported by network, e-mail, voice mail, telephone and other systems in the course of routine system operation, problem resolution and support. Employees should have no expectation of privacy in the use of the District network and computers.
- Possibility of Unintended Disclosure – Users must be aware of the possibility of unintended disclosure of communications.
District's Disclosure Responsibility – Users must be aware that all electronic communications and electronic documents may be subject to disclosure by the District in response to law enforcement investigations, judicial orders, California Public Records Act requests and other requests/demands that are outside of the District's control to limit or deny. Additionally, the District may be prohibited from notifying the user of the disclosure demand and/or the response to that demand.

- Retrieval – It is possible for information entered on or transmitted via computer and communications systems to be retrieved, even if a user has deleted such information.
- Public Records – The California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250 *et seq.*) includes computer transmissions in the definition of “public record” and nonexempt communications made on the District network and computers must be disclosed by the District if requested by a member of the public.
- Litigation – Computer transmissions and electronically stored information may be discoverable in litigation.

Dissemination and User Acknowledgment of this Procedure

All users shall be provided copies of these procedures and be directed to familiarize themselves with them.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with Board policy, labor/management negotiated agreements, and the *Student Discipline Procedures* handbook.

Users shall sign and date an acknowledgement and waiver stating that they have read and understand this procedure, and will comply with it. Where possible, a “pop-up” screen describing the agreement shall appear prior to accessing the network.

This acknowledgment and waiver shall be in the form as follows:

Acknowledgment

Computer and Network Use Agreement

I have received and read a copy of the District Computer and Network Use Procedure and this Agreement dated, _____, and recognize and understand the AP 3720 guidelines. I agree to abide by the standards set in the Procedure for the duration of my employment and/or enrollment. I am aware that violations of this Computer and Network Usage Procedure may subject me to disciplinary action, including but not limited to revocation of my network account up to and including prosecution for violation of State and/or Federal law.

Print Name

Date

Signature

Note: This page will be kept and filed by originating department.