

# Arizona Autism Charter Schools Policies and Procedures: Internet Safety

## 25-26 Internet Safety Policy

### Purpose

Arizona Autism Charter Schools (AZACS) provides students, staff, and faculty access to technology and internet resources to support teaching, learning, and school operations. In compliance with the **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**, this policy establishes guidelines to protect students from harmful or inappropriate online content and ensure responsible use of school technology.

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### Policy Statement

AZACS uses internet filtering, monitoring, and educational programs to protect students while providing opportunities for safe, age-appropriate online learning. The school prohibits the use of technology resources for any unlawful, harmful, or inappropriate activities.

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## CIPA Requirements and Compliance

### 1. Internet Filtering and Blocking

AZACS employs a technology protection measure (filtering software) on all school devices with internet access. This measure:

- Blocks access to visual depictions that are **obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors**.
- Restricts inappropriate websites and applications, including those promoting violence, hate speech, drug use, or sexual content.
- Filters are active on all devices connected to school networks, including devices taken off-campus when owned/issued by AZACS.

### 2. Monitoring of Online Activity

- School staff and IT administrators monitor the online activity of minors while on school networks.
- Monitoring includes website access, email, chat, and other forms of electronic communication.

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- Logs are reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with school and legal requirements.

### **3. Education in Digital Citizenship**

AZACS provides ongoing instruction to students on safe and responsible technology use. Curriculum includes:

- Cyberbullying awareness and prevention.
- Safe online communication and avoiding risky behavior.
- Protecting personal information and respecting privacy.
- Understanding intellectual property, copyright, and plagiarism.
- Reporting inappropriate or unsafe online behavior to school staff.

### **4. Unauthorized and Inappropriate Use**

Students are prohibited from:

- Accessing obscene or harmful material.
- Engaging in cyberbullying, harassment, or hate speech.
- Sharing personal information (e.g., address, phone number, passwords) online.
- Attempting to disable or bypass school filtering systems.
- Using school technology for illegal or unethical purposes.

### **5. Staff Responsibilities**

- Staff will supervise student internet use when feasible.
- Staff will guide students in responsible use and immediately report suspected misuse.
- IT staff will ensure filters and monitoring systems remain active and effective.

### **6. Parental Involvement**

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- Parents/guardians will be informed about the internet safety policy.
  - Educational resources will be shared to encourage safe internet practices at home.
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### **Enforcement**

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action consistent with the Student Handbook and Employee Handbook, loss of technology privileges, and/or legal consequences.

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### **Policy Review**

This Internet Safety Policy will be reviewed annually by school administration and IT staff to ensure compliance with CIPA and evolving best practices.

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**Adopted by Arizona Autism Charter Schools Governing Board on 8/28/25**