LEE A. TOLBERT COMMUNITY ACADEMY
INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

The purpose of this Internet Safety Policy is to ensure the safe and appropriate use of the internet by students and staff at Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy (LATCA). This policy is designed to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and provide guidelines for responsible internet use within the school premises and on school-owned devices. LATCA employs two software appliances that safely monitors and filters all devices in use during school hours. Meraki Firewall and Lightspeed Filter blocks and monitors inappropriate sites and online behavior.

Internet Safety Measures

1.1. Access to Inappropriate Content

1.1.1. The school shall employ a Content Keeper filtering appliance and software to prevent access to obscene, explicit, or harmful material as required by CIPA.

1.1.2. The filtering software and configurations shall be audited and updated at least quarterly to ensure its effectiveness in blocking inappropriate content.

1.1.3. Any attempts to bypass or disable the filtering software are strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

Appropriate Use

1.3.1. Students and staff shall use the internet in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner.

1.3.2. Accessing, creating, or transmitting material that is illegal, inappropriate, or disruptive to the educational environment is strictly prohibited.

1.3.3. Attempting to obtain unauthorized access to online materials by hacking or other unlawful means is strictly prohibited.

1.3.4. Personal use of the internet during school hours should be limited to activities that support educational objectives or are otherwise approved by school authorities.

Personal Information

1.4.1. Students and staff shall not disclose personal information, such as full names, addresses, phone numbers, or social security numbers, while using the internet unless authorized for educational purposes.

1.4.2. Students shall not disclose personal information about themselves or others on websites, social media platforms, or in any online communication without permission from a teacher or guardian.

Cyberbullying and Harassment

1.5.1. Cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation of any kind through internet use is strictly prohibited.

1.5.2. Students shall promptly report any incidents of cyberbullying or online harassment to a teacher or school administrator.

1.5.3. The school shall promptly investigate and take appropriate disciplinary action against those responsible for cyberbullying or online harassment.

Monitoring and Enforcement

2.1. The school reserves the right to monitor and review internet usage and network activity to ensure compliance with this policy and to maintain a safe and secure environment.

2.2. Any violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to warnings, loss of internet privileges, or legal action if necessary.

2.3. School staff and administration shall monitor the online activity of students through use of detective software, screen viewing software, and content filter monitoring and notifications.

Review and Updates

3.1.This Internet Safety Policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with changing laws, regulations, and best practices. Updates and revisions may be made as needed, and all members of the school community will be notified of changes to the policy. The school administration, staff, students, and parents are encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Reporting and Response

4.1. Students, staff, and parents are encouraged to report any incidents of inappropriate internet use, cyberbullying, or online harassment to a designated school contact.

4.2. The school will investigate all reports promptly and take appropriate action to address the situation.

4.3. Confidentiality and privacy of those reporting incidents will be maintained to the extent possible.

Staff Responsibilities

5.1. School staff members are responsible for monitoring students' internet use during school hours and ensuring compliance with this policy.

5.2. Staff members shall actively promote and model responsible and safe internet use.

5.3. Staff members should promptly report any violations of this policy to the appropriate authorities.