
ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Pathways Academy Adult Education (“PAAE or “Charter School”) adopts this Acceptable Use of Technology Policy to recognize that technological resources enhance employee performance by offering effective tools to assist in providing a quality and safe instructional program; facilitating communications with parents/guardians, students, and the community; supporting school operations; and improving access to and exchange of information. PAAE expects all employees to learn to use the available technological resources that will assist them in the performance of their job duties and will provide professional development as needed in the appropriate use of these resources.

PAAE permits employees to use its technology and communication systems, including email, phones, voicemail, digital school programs, and internet, subject to the following:

1. The technology and communication systems provided by PAAE are the property of PAAE. All electronic communications, including all emails, software, databases, hardware, and digital files, remain the sole property of PAAE and are to be used only for PAAE business. Employees have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their use of such technology and communications.
2. PAAE may periodically assign and/or change passwords and personal codes for voice mail, email and computer. PAAE reserves the right to override any such password system at any time at its sole discretion, with or without cause.
3. PAAE will allow some minimal personal use by employees if such use does not disrupt or interfere with the employee’s timely performance of job duties and is consistent with law and PAAE policy. The following exceptions remain in place:
 - a. PAAE reserves the right to require authorization prior to the installation of software on a PAAE computer and/or mobile devices.
 - b. With PAAE approval, employees may use personal passwords for purposes of security, but any employee’s use of a personal password does not affect the PAAE’s ownership of the electronic information.
 - c. All electronic information created by any employee using any means of electronic communication is the property of PAAE and remains the property of PAAE.
4. PAAE technology and communication systems are not to be used in any way that may be disruptive, offensive, harmful to morale, engage in copyright or trademark infringement, and/or otherwise violate the law or school policy. For example, sexually explicit images, ethnic slurs, racial epithets, or anything else that may be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religious beliefs or political beliefs may not be displayed or transmitted.

Employees must not attempt to gain access to another employee’s or third parties’ personal files, email, or voicemail without express permission given. As the technology and communication systems are the property of PAAE, it will retain a copy of all employee-used passwords. Employees may not use passwords or security measures

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unknown to PAAE. System security features, including passwords and delete functions, do not neutralize PAAE's ability to access any digital records at any time. Employees must be aware that the possibility of such access always exists. PAAE reserves the right to access and review electronic files, messages, mail, and other digital archives, and to monitor the use of electronic communications as necessary to ensure that no misuse or violation of PAAE's policy or any law occurs.

5. Should employees use personal phones, voicemail, email, and text messages for School-related communications, it may subject the employee's personal accounts and devices to disclosure under the Public Records Act. School-related communications must only take place using School-issued communications and technology systems.
6. Access to the Internet, websites, and other types of PAAE-paid computer access are to be used for PAAE related business. Any information about the Charter School, its products or services, or other types of information that will appear in the electronic media about the Charter School must be approved by the Executive Director or designee before the information is placed on an electronic information resource that is accessible to others.
7. Employees shall report any security problem or misuse of school technology to the Executive Director or designee.

Safety and Security

Ensuring the safety of students and staff while participating virtually in school sponsored activities is of the utmost importance to the Charter School. In that effort, the Charter School will establish safety protocol and security settings for online platforms utilized for meetings and instruction. It is the Charter School's responsibility to develop, train and implement expectations for staff and students that ensures a safe online experience. It is the staff and student's responsibility to uphold and comply with the Charter School's expectations to ensure the safety of all participants while meeting virtually.

Social Media

The Charter School supports the use of social media and online platforms (including websites, blogs, and forums) by staff members to assist in their professional duties and to create an online presence that facilitates staff, parent/guardian, students, and community communication. All communications with students through social media, or other online platforms, should be limited to matters directly related to the employee's professional duties. Staff must exercise good judgment and maintain professional standards and boundaries when interacting with students both on and off school property, including through digital communication. Use of social media for personal use during PAAE time or on PAAE equipment is prohibited.

Employees must not post any information or engage in communications that violate state or federal laws or PAAE policies. Employees must make clear that any views expressed are the

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employee's alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of PAAE. Employees may not act as a spokesperson for PAAE or post comments as a representative of PAAE, except as authorized by the Executive Director or designee. When authorized as a spokesperson for PAAE, employees must disclose their employment relationship with PAAE. The use of the Charter School logo on a social media site or elsewhere must be pre-approved by the Executive Director or designee.

Any employee who is found to have neglected or misused PAAE's property will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. If an employee's misuse of PAAE's property damages the property, PAAE reserves the right to require the employee to pay all or part of the cost to repair or replace the property. Misappropriation of PAAE's property is grounds for immediate termination and possible criminal action. Inappropriate use of school technology may result in cancellation of the employee's user privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action in accordance with law.

Upon employment and whenever significant changes are made to PAAE's policy, employees shall be required to acknowledge that they have read and agree to the policy.