

Social Networking

Rule: n/a Law: n/a

Policy is mandated by Utah State.

Policy:

The Ranches Academy recognizes both the educational value and dangers of social networking sites. To protect personnel, students, parents, and school resources, the school requires all educators who access social networking sites to abide by the following:

Definitions:

"Web page" means a social networking site, personal web site, blog account or other Internet location which can be edited by an individual with the correct username and password.

Instructional Use:

- 1. Web pages may only be accessed at school or using school resources for instructional purposes directly related to the educator's curriculum.
- 2. Prior to creating an instructional web page, the educator must have written consent from the principal. Consent may be withdrawn at any time.
- 3. An instructional use web page shall comply with all school policies, including the Family Handbook. Profane, obscene, or defamatory comments are not permitted.
- 4. Educators must comply with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and may not post student photos, or personally identifiable information without written parental consent. Educator web page postings may not violate any state or federal laws.
- 5. Educators are responsible for ensuring that student posts which violate laws or school policies are removed immediately and appropriate disciplinary action is taken.
- 6. Educators are responsible for all content on the educator's web page, including posts by students, and must limit the access to those students with parental permission to participate in the instructional use.

- 7. School administrators must be granted access to the web page and shall monitor the site for compliance with this policy.
- 8. Educators must include a disclaimer on their web page noting that the content, views, or opinions expressed on the web page do not represent the school and the educator is solely responsible any opinions, views, or content on the web page.

Personal Use:

- 1. Educators who maintain a personal web page shall not allow students, past or present, to access their personal web page.
- 2. Educators shall not solicit students, past or present, as friends on their personal web pages or invite or encourage students to read or access their web page.
- 3. Educators shall not text students, past or present, for any purpose with the exception of relatives.
- 4.. Educators may not access personal web pages, including social networking sites,
- 5. Using school resources or contract time.
- 6. Educators may face disciplinary action for posts on their personal web pages that violate school policies and state rules regarding professional conduct and create a disruption in the school or interfere with the educator's ability to serve as an educator at the school.
- 15. Educators may not use school logos, mascots, symbols, or school trademarks on their personal web pages.
- 16. Educators who use school resources to create, maintain, or post to personal web pages or the pages of others have no expectation of privacy and their activities may be subject to review by school administration.
- 17. Disciplinary action for inappropriate postings on web pages may include a written warning to termination, depending on the severity and frequency of the action.

Approved: January 7, 2010