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## **SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY**

### **Legal Authority/Requirement**

R277-487 Public School Student Confidentiality  
R277-495 Required Policy for Electronic Devices, Internet and Online Access

The Academy for Math Engineering & Science (AMES) recognizes both the educational value and dangers of social networking sites. To protect AMES personnel, students, parents/guardians and AMES resources, AMES 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 or using a web page, the educator must have written consent from his or her school principal. The consent must include the purpose of the access, the names of students permitted to access the site, and the anticipated duration of the instructional activity. Consent may be withdrawn at any time.
3. An instructional use web page shall comply with all school policies, including the AMES Honor Code and Expectations for Student Behavior (Student Handbook). Profane, obscene, or defamatory comments are not permitted.

4. Educators must comply with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and may not post student photos, or personally identifiable information without prior written parental/guardian consent. Educator web page posting 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 with immediate referral to AMES Administration.
6. Educators are responsible for all content on the educator's web page, including posts by students, and must limit 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 AMES and the educator is solely responsible for any opinions, views, or content on the web page.

### **Personal Use**

1. Educators who maintain a personal web page shall not allow AMES students to access their personal web page.
2. Educators shall not solicit students (former students?) as friends on their personal web pages, invite, or encourage students to read or access their web pages.
3. Educators may not access personal web pages using school resources or on contract time.
4. Educators may face disciplinary action for posts on their personal web pages that violate district 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.
5. Educators may not use school logos, mascots, symbols, or district trademarks on their personal web pages.
6. Educators, who use district 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 or district administration.

7. Disciplinary action for inappropriate posting on web pages may include oral/written reprimand, suspension, and/or termination.