

**DODGELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board Policy Manual**

**343.7 - Rule**

**RULES FOR PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE COURSES**

**A. Acceptable Use Rules**

Access to the technology utilized by Wisconsin Virtual School or DodgeLand School District courses imposes certain responsibilities and obligations. Appropriate use is ethical and honest, and demonstrates respect for physical and intellectual property, system security protocols, individuals' rights to privacy, and freedom from intimidation, harassment and unwarranted annoyance.

1. **Wisconsin Virtual School or District course resources shall be used only for authorized purposes.** Students will respect the work and creativity of the authors of materials that are viewed on the Internet. Therefore, students will not copy files from the Internet for any other use other than for personal use, unless the webmaster explicitly states that the page may be copied indiscriminately.
2. **Only legal versions of copyrighted software in full compliance with licensing agreements shall be used.** Students will respect the work and creativity of software developers and not download or duplicate licensed software. Students may download public domain programs. Students assume all risks in regard to programs that are public domain, shareware or licensed.
3. **Students shall exercise responsible, ethical behavior.** The Internet is a global network of information. Information available ranges from being useful and scholarly to being incorrect, possibly plagiarized, and offensive. There are no gatekeepers or systems of censorship in place on the Internet.
4. **Students shall respect individuals' privacy.** Students will protect the privacy of classmates. Therefore, students will not publish any names, passwords, e-mail addresses or other information pertaining to other students. Students understand that the Wisconsin Virtual School or District courses require use of e-mail and newsgroups as a means of communication and learning; and will, therefore, respect the technology as a means of instruction. By participating in newsgroups, students agree to allow others access to their Wisconsin Virtual School or District course e-mail address.
5. **Technology and the Wisconsin Virtual School or District format shall be used in a respectful manner.** Students will not use the Wisconsin Virtual School or District network for financial gain or any commercial or illegal activity. Students will follow rules, written and unwritten, pertaining to Internet etiquette, and communicate respectfully to all people.

Any inappropriate use of the Internet is prohibited by the District. Actions that constitute inappropriate use include, but are not limited to:

- Use a login or password other than their own without permission.
- Use files or data other than their own without permission.
- Attempt to break into system operations of the network or servers.
- Attempt to decode or circumvent security protocols on servers or workstations.
- Engage in activity that exposes the systems and residing information to any level of harm or danger.
- Make illegal copies of software.
- Use an e-mail account as a means to harass people who use the Internet, including other Wisconsin Virtual School students.

- Use the Wisconsin Virtual School or District network, e-mail, newsgroups for partisan political purposes or commercial venture.
- Engage in any activity that does not comply with the District's technology acceptable use policy and rules.
- Engage in any activity that does not comply with District nondiscrimination policies.
- Engage in academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor and securing written approval, or tampering with the computer files and/or academic work of the other students. A student charged with academic dishonesty will be given oral or written notice of the charge by the instructor.

Students who violate any part of these rules or engage in any other activity which school authorities consider inappropriate, will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with District discipline policies and student handbooks. Discipline may include, but not be limited to, immediate suspension or termination of Internet access to the Wisconsin Virtual School or District courses. Any attempt to break into or tamper with the system operations, including any student records or grades, will result in cancellation of privileges.

By enrolling in an online course, students accept the terms of Board policy and these rules and acknowledge and hold harmless the Wisconsin Virtual School and the District for any injury or offense that may be suffered by accessing information on the Internet.

**B. Course Completion**

As in any course of study, student success in online courses is dependent on the amount of attention given to each assessment, study skills, the experiences brought to the course and the help the student receives while taking the course. The District encourages students to put sufficient effort into each assessment. Students should seek assistance from their teacher regarding course content, the Wisconsin Virtual School tech support regarding technical problems, or the District for other needs or questions. Course completion requirements are governed by procedures in the Middle/High School Student Handbook.

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