

4000 SERIES/PERSONNEL – CERTIFIED/NON CERTIFIED**SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Wallingford Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes the importance and utility of social media and networks for its employees. The laws regarding social media continue to evolve and change. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit an employee’s right to use social media or personal online accounts under applicable law, as it may evolve. The Board acknowledges, for example, that its employees have the right under the First Amendment, in certain circumstances, to speak out on matters of public concern. The Board will resolve any conflict between this policy and applicable law in favor of the law.

Ordinarily, the use of social media by employees, including employees’ use of personal online accounts, will not be a legal or policy issue. While a policy cannot address every instance of inappropriate social media use, employees must refrain from personal social media use that:

1. interferes, disrupts or undermines the effective operation of the school district;
or is used to engage in harassing, defamatory, obscene, abusive, discriminatory or threatening or similarly inappropriate communication (e.g., when such speech relates to a matter of public concern and its disruptive impact outweighs the importance of the speech);
2. creates a hostile work environment;
3. breaches confidentiality obligations of school district employees; or
4. violates the law, Board policies and/or other school rules and regulations.

Employees’ official social media use will be addressed as speech pursuant to duty under applicable First Amendment principles.

The Board, through its Superintendent, will adopt and maintain administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Legal References:

U.S. Constitution, Amend. I
 Pickering v. Board of Education, 391 U.S. 563 (1968)
 Connick v. Myers, 461 U.S. 138 (1983)
 Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006)
 Lindke v. Freed, 601 U.S. 187 (2024)
 Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520
 Conn. Constitution, Article I, Sections 3, 4, 14

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Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-40x

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-51q

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a-250

Policy Adopted: 10/15/12

Policy Revised: 1/24/22, 3/24/25