AUSD Digital Citizenship Program

Albany Unified School District recognizes the importance of educating students about appropriate online behavior that will help them make informed decisions when communicating online. In accordance with the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, AUSD provides students with instruction in the following topics related to digital citizenship over the course of their studies in the district:

- **Internet Safety**: Instruct that all Internet destinations are not safe and promote mindfulness about communicating with strangers.
- **Privacy and Security**: The importance of not sharing personal information, maintaining strong passwords, and avoiding scams.
- **Communication**: Recognizing the audience when choosing levels of formality in online communication; showing respect when communicating, sharing, and commenting with peers.
- **Cyberbullying**: Recognize cyberbullying in order to avoid participating in it and provide strategies for those that are victimized by it.
- **Digital Footprint**: Inform students that the ease of sharing on the Internet can quickly turn what was intended to be private into the all-too-public. Instill awareness of how this can affect future college and job prospects.
- **Image and Identity**: Students learn that they have control over the image they project online. Also, the importance of recognizing that advertising and image enhancement shape the "reality" that students are exposed to online.
- **Information Literacy**: The ability to effectively search for and filter data online. Using the Internet as a powerful tool for research while analyzing the reliability of sources.
- **Copyright**: Avoiding plagiarism and properly crediting and attributing sources.

Note: the above topics purposely mirror the online digital citizenship curriculum created by Common Sense Media in order to ensure that necessary topics are covered.

Although many of the above topics are covered throughout a student's career at AUSD, the focus of the instruction changes at the different grade levels as follows:

- **Elementary**: Internet safety, privacy, appropriate communication
- **Middle**: Cyberbullying, digital footprint, identity
- **High**: Information literacy, copyright

Following is a description of the <u>minimum</u> instruction that AUSD students receive in digital citizenship. The actual materials used for instruction may vary according to preferences of a school site or those teaching the material.

- **Grade 1-2**: 1 hour per student per year covering the basics of Internet safety, privacy, and communication. Instruction occurs during scheduled visits to the library/media center over the course of the year.
- **Grade 3-5**: 2 hours per student per year covering the basics of search and using the Internet as a research tool. Instruction occurs during scheduled visits to the library/media center over the course of the year.
- **Grade 6-8**: 3 lessons per grade delivered in advisory class covering cyberbullying, appropriate communication and etiquette practices, digital footprint, and image and identity. Ongoing project-based instruction on information literacy will be presented in the library/media center. Real-life examples will be presented by high school age peer advisors at least one time during a student's middle school career.
- **Grade 9-10**: All 9th and 10th graders receive advanced skills training in information literacy and copyright in the library/media lab. 9th and 10th graders will receive at least 4 hours of instruction.
- **Grade 11-12**: Ongoing project-based instruction occurs in the classroom. Students are expected to synthesize what they have learned over time and apply it in practice in all projects completed by this point.

Compliance: AUSD will ensure that this instruction is occurring by requiring those responsible for teaching the curriculum to certify the instruction by recording details in an online form. This form will be periodically reviewed by district staff to ensure adherence to the program laid out in this document.