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Social Networking Statement

September 22, 2020

All Troup County School System Employees,

One of the hallmarks of social networks is the ability to “friend” others – creating a group of others that share interests and personal news. The district strongly discourages teachers from accepting invitations to *friend* students within these social networking sites. When students gain access into a teacher’s network of friends and acquaintances and are able to view personal photos, the student-teacher dynamic is altered. Friending students provides more information than one should share in an educational setting.

As employees of the Troup County School System, we have a professional image to uphold and how we conduct ourselves online helps determine this image. Some employees feel that being online shields them from having their personal lives examined. But increasingly, employees’ online identities are too often public, scrutinized, and can lead to serious repercussions.

GaPSC Statement

Educators who use social media are responsible for their conduct and their postings and must recognize the likelihood that any posting will be viewed by students, parents, other staff, and the community. Thus any posting that contains content that reflects unprofessional or unethical conduct may be evidence that would support disciplinary action. Similarly the educator is responsible if the conduct of any posting results in a disruption in school, or the loss of effectiveness in performing their duties of the job. Conduct/postings inconsistent with the norms of the profession should be avoided.

It is important for employees to maintain a professional stance in all social postings to avoid situations that could cause bias in the classroom or loss in effectiveness in performing their duties of the job.

Human Resources
hrdepartment@troup.org

Please submit concerns or grievances to your Administrator

