

## ***SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS***

### **POLICY**

The Valley Stream Union Free School District #24 recognizes the importance of teachers, students and parents engaging, collaborating, learning, and sharing in digital learning environments as a part of a comprehensive approach to 21st century learning. The District also acknowledges that social media is an integral part of our staff's, students' and school district community's daily lives, both in and out of the classroom. While the First Amendment and related laws and court decisions protect a broad spectrum of online speech, they also clearly provide that when one's online posts or other communications disrupt school operations, the conduct may lose its protection and subject individuals, including employees, to disciplinary action. Therefore, it is important to create an atmosphere of trust and individual accountability, keeping in mind that online posts and interactions made by the District's teachers and students are a reflection on the entire district.

With this in mind, the Board of Education has developed this policy and the accompanying administrative regulations to provide direction for instructional employees, students and the District community when participating in online and social media activities. In addition, all online and social media activities must comply with the requirements of Policy 6161.3 (Local Area Network, Related Technology and the Internet).

Reference: Policy 6161.3 (Local Area Network, Related Technology and the Internet)

Board of Education

ADOPTED: February 28, 2018