

STATE BOARD FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

STATEMENT OF POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 4-4-102

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POLICY TITLE: **WIDE AREA NETWORK (TECHNET): PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS**

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Section 59-53-57 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, As Amended

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY: **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

DATE APPROVED BY BOARD: June 1, 1994

DATE OF LAST REVISION: November 12, 2008


CHAIRMAN


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

TECHNET is a wide area network which links the computer resources of the system office, the sixteen (16) technical colleges, other state agencies and systems. It serves the following purposes:

- 1) The transmission of data.
- 2) The sharing of computer resources.
- 3) The improvement of communications within and without the Technical Education System.
- 4) Distance Learning

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OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF THE NETWORK

It is the responsibility of the system office's Division of Information Technology (IT) to manage TECHNET and ensure its reliability. This responsibility includes management of contracts which affect the entire network. The IT Division shall take appropriate measures to keep the network available to all legitimate users and maintain an acceptable level of up time. To ensure availability and performance of the network, the IT Division may prioritize and/or suspend/prohibit applications as necessary.

CONNECTION AND ACCESS

The system office and each technical college shall maintain a connection to TECHNET. Other agencies, networks and systems may be connected to TECHNET when sharing and cooperation would produce benefits which would enhance both the Technical Education System and the State of South Carolina. Connection to TECHNET by other entities is subject to approval by the State Board.

SECURITY

It is the responsibility of the system office and the colleges to guard against security breaches and fraudulent use of their computer and telecommunication resources. Unauthorized access must be prevented and assurance that utilization in compliance with the Budget and Control Board Acceptable Use Policy to the greatest extent possible. Violations must be dealt with in a manner consistent with state and federal laws such as South Carolina's Computer Crime Bill and copyright laws, etc.

EMERGENCIES

In conjunction with the telecommunications companies, it is the responsibility of the IT Division to monitor the performance of the network and oversee the actions taken to maintain or restore service. The IT Division shall also develop and maintain a Disaster Recovery Plan for TECHNET which includes emergency situations such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and grand scale power outages. These procedures must be consistent with those developed by the Governor's Office and/or other government agencies.

FUNDING OF TECHNET

Funds to maintain the operation of TECHNET are provided through the normal budgeting processes. Situations which require additional funds are to be resolved by the Executive Director following review of advice and recommendations of the Presidents' Council.