

App Approval Process for SJCS D Schools

App Approval Process for iPods, iPads, Windows Tablets and other mobile devices in use by School District Classroom Teachers and Students

Introduction:

St. Johns County School District teachers currently use mobile applications (apps) for learning purposes. Standard devices include iPod touches, iPads and Windows tablets.

To ensure that these apps are safe and educationally sound for all St. Johns County students the following approval process must be followed by all schools when utilizing mobile technology in classrooms. The Principal is ultimately responsible to comply with the approval process and ensure applications acquired for their school are age-appropriate, meet learning goals and Acceptable Use Policies (AUP).

Approval Process:

Employees who wish to have an app approved for classroom use shall follow these procedures:

- 1. Educational Use:** Each app must be used for educational purposes and align with Florida State Standards.
- 2. Customer Review:** Each app must have reviews averaging 3 stars or above.
- 3. App Rating for iOS:** All apps must be rated at a maximum of 4+ (suitable for students 4 years of age and older) for Elementary and Middle School students. Apps rated for age 9+ may only be used at the high school level if approved by the school principal. **iOS based Apps age rated as 12+ or 17+ are not allowed in St. Johns County School District classrooms.**
 - ❖ **4+** (suitable for students 4 years of age and older): Applications in this category contain no objectionable material.
 - ❖ **9+** (suitable for students 9 years of age and older): Applications in this category may contain mild or infrequent occurrences of cartoon, fantasy or realistic violence, and infrequent or mild mature, suggestive, or horror-themed content which may not be suitable for children under the age of 9.
 - ❖ **12+** (suitable for students 12 years of age and older): Applications in this category may also contain infrequent mild language, frequent or intense cartoon, fantasy or realistic violence, and mild or infrequent mature or suggestive themes, and simulated gambling which may not be suitable for children under the age of 12.
 - ❖ **17+** (suitable for students 17 years of age and older): Applications in this category may also contain frequent and intense offensive language; frequent and intense cartoon, fantasy or realistic violence; and frequent and intense

mature, horror, and suggestive themes; plus sexual content, nudity, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs which may not be suitable for children under the age of 17.

- 4. App Rating for Windows 8:** All apps must be rated at a maximum of 3+ (suitable for students 4 years of age and older) for Elementary and Middle School students. Apps rated for age 7+ may only be used at the high school level if approved by the school principal. **Windows 8 based Apps age rated as 12+ or 16+ or higher are not allowed in St. Johns County School District classrooms.**

- ❖ **3+** (Suitable for young children): These apps are appropriate for young children as young as 3. There may be minimal comic violence in non-realistic, cartoon form. Characters should not resemble or be associated with real life characters. There should be no content that could be frightening, and there should be no nudity or references to sexual or criminal activity. Apps with this age rating also cannot enable features that could access content or functionality unsuitable for young children, such as uncontrolled online sharing of information (such as that described under the 12+ ratings category).
- ❖ **7+** (Suitable for ages 7 and older): Apps with this age rating have the same criteria as the 3+ applications, except these apps can include content that might frighten a younger audience and can contain partial nudity, as long as the nudity doesn't refer to sexual activity.
- ❖ **12+** (Suitable for ages 12 and older): Apps with this age rating can contain increased nudity of a non-sexual nature, slightly graphic violence towards non-realistic characters, or non-graphic violence towards realistic human or animal characters. This age rating might also include profanity, but not of a sexual nature. Also, apps with this age rating or higher may allow for uncontrolled: (i) access to online social networks, or (ii) sharing of personal info with third parties, including other gamers or online acquaintances.
- ❖ **16+** (Suitable for ages 16 and older): Apps with this age rating can depict realistic violence with minimal blood, and they can depict sexual activity. They can also contain drug or tobacco use and criminal activities, and more profanity than would be allowed in a 12+ app.

- 5. School Administrator Approval:** All apps being used in the classroom must be approved by school principal or designee. A current list of all school approved apps must be kept on file at each school. Schools are encouraged to post approved apps on the school web site.

The Instructional Technology Department will post prohibited apps and recommended apps with ideas for possible usage aligned to standards on the St. Johns County School District website:

http://blogs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/instructionaltech/?page_id=29

For additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Melanie Tahan, Director of Instructional Technology, Media Services and Instructional Technology, or Bruce Patrou, Chief Information and Technology Officer.