

# Student Personal Electronic Account Privacy Protection Policy

In 2015, the Maryland legislature passed legislation to protect the online privacy rights of students enrolled in institutions of postsecondary education. The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) is committed to protecting the privacy of students in accordance with all legal standards as required by the State of Maryland.

Community College of Baltimore County **shall not** do any of the following:

- A. Request, require, suggest or cause a student to disclose any username, password or other authentication information that allows access or observation to a student's personal electronic account or change the privacy settings associated with a student's personal or electronic account.
- B. Discipline, discharge, fail to admit, threaten, prohibit from participating in curricular or extracurricular activities, or otherwise penalize a student as a result of the student's refusal to do any of the following:
  - Grant access to, allow observation of, or disclose any information that allows access to or observation of a personal electronic account;
  - Add any individual to the list of contacts associated with a personal electronic account;
  - Change the privacy setting associated with a personal electronic account; or
  - Fail or refuse to admit an applicant as a result of the applicant's refusal to:
    - Grant access to, allow observation of, or disclose any information that allows access to or observation of a personal electronic account;
    - Add any individual to the list of contacts associated with a personal electronic account; or
    - Change the privacy setting associated with a personal electronic account.
- C. This policy **may not** be interpreted to:
  - Prohibit CCBC from requesting or requiring a student to disclose access information to allow the college to gain access to an electronic account opened at the college's behest or provided by the college;
  - Prohibit or restrict CCBC from viewing, accessing, or utilizing information about a student, an applicant or a prospective student that can be obtained without access information, is publicly accessible, or is available to the college as a result of actions undertaken independently by the student, applicant or prospective student;
  - Create a duty requiring CCBC to search or monitor the activity of a personal electronic account;
  - Make CCBC liable for failing to request or require a student, an applicant or a prospective student to grant access to, allow observation of, or disclose information that allows access to or observation of the individual's personal electronic account; or
  - Prohibit a student, an applicant, or a prospective student from allowing an athletic coach or administrator to view the student's, applicant's or prospective student's publicly accessible communications.

D. This policy **does not** apply to:

- A suspected criminal activity investigation into the publicly accessible communications of a student, an applicant, or a prospective student that is performed by CCBC's Office of Public Safety;
- An investigation, inquiry or a determination relating to the publicly accessible communications of a student, an applicant, or a prospective student that is conducted in accordance with the college's health or public safety administration assessment policy or protocol.