Administrative Information Technology Systems Security Plan

1. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this Information Technology Systems Security Plan is to establish security measures that will help Hawthorn Academy (the "School") protect sensitive data that is stored or maintained on its computer equipment, systems, and networks. The School is required to establish this Plan pursuant to Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-487 and the School's Information Technology Security Policy.

2. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This Plan is applicable to employees, volunteers, and third-party contractors of the School. The School will use this Plan to protect its computer equipment, systems, and networks from, among other things, unauthorized access, inappropriate disclosure, and compromise.

This Plan works in conjunction with the School's Information Technology Security Policy, Student Data Privacy and Security Policy, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Policy and Administrative Procedures, Data Governance Plan, and policies and procedures pertaining to the School's electronic resources and devices.

This Plan contains security measures related to the following:

1. System Administration;
2. Network Security;
3. Application Security;
4. Endpoint, Server, and Device Security;
5. Identity, Authentication, and Access Management;
6. Data Protection and Cryptography;
7. Monitoring, Vulnerability, and Patch Management;
8. High Availability, Disaster Recovery, and Physical Protection;
9. Incident Responses;
10. Acquisition and Asset Management; and
11. Policy, Audit, and E-Discovery Training.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The School's contracted IT provider functions as the School's IT Security Manager and will help the School implement this Plan and comply with it. The responsibilities of the IT Security Manager set forth in this Plan supplement the responsibilities of the IT Security Manager outlined in the School's Data Governance Plan, which include the following:

1. Overseeing IT security at the School;
2. Helping the School to comply with IT security laws applicable to the School;
3. Providing training and support to School employees on IT security matters;
4. Investigating complaints of alleged violations of the School's IT security policies, procedures, or plans;

5.	Investigating alleged security breaches of the School's IT systems; and

6.	Reporting periodically to the School's Board of Directors on the security of the School's IT systems.

Please refer to the School's Data Governance Plan to review the data privacy and security roles and responsibilities of the School's Student Data Manager, employees, educators, volunteers, and third-party contractors.

4. COMPLIANCE

School employees, volunteers, and third-party contractors must comply with this Plan. Failure to comply shall result in consequences for the person or entity up to and including removal of access to the School's computer equipment, systems, and networks. If such access is required for employment or contracted services, employees and third-party contractors may be subject to dismissal.

5. REPORTING

All persons who are granted access to the School's computer equipment, systems, and networks are expected to be careful and aware of suspicious communications and unauthorized use of the School's IT assets. When School personnel or other users become aware of suspicious activity, they shall immediately contact the Student Data Manager or IT Security Manager with the relevant information.

6. SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

System administration is a critical function that provides management of the School's information systems that contain sensitive data, including personally identifiable student data. If malicious actors compromise system administration, they have access to the School's sensitive data and information systems.

The School's information systems will be administered by the IT Security Manager. The IT Security Manager will use a combination of preventative, detective, forensic, and audit controls to protect system administration channels from exploitation by attackers.

7. NETWORK SECURITY

It is essential for the School to protect its network from both internal and external malicious actors. The School recognizes that appropriate network security procedures are necessary for identifying, evaluating, controlling, and mitigating network vulnerabilities and for protecting the School's technology assets.

The IT Security Manager will manage the School's network according to industry best practices. In so doing the IT Security Manager will provide a secure and robust computing environment at the School; protect the School's information technology assets and systems; and preserve the privacy of sensitive data belonging to the School's employees, students, and associated entities.

All wireless access networks at the School shall conform to current best practices and shall utilize at minimum WPA encryption for any connections. No wireless access point shall be installed on the School's network that does not conform to current network standards as defined by the IT Security Manager.

The School shall ensure that any remote access with connectivity to the School's internal network is achieved using the School's centralized VPN service that is protected by multiple factor authentication systems.

8. APPLICATION SECURITY

Web application vulnerabilities account for the largest portion of attack vectors outside of malware. To help protect the School from harm, it is essential to perform security assessments of web applications used by the School.

The IT Security Manager shall perform a security assessment of all web applications that are used (or will be used) by the School to house sensitive data. The purpose of the security assessments is to identify potential or realized weaknesses. Any vulnerabilities found in a web application used by the School shall be remediated. If serious vulnerabilities in a web application cannot be remediated, the web application shall be removed.

The IT Security Manager shall determine which web application security assessment tools to use.

9. ENDPOINT, SERVER, AND DEVICE SECURITY

The School understands the importance of preventing, detecting, and remediating attacks and compromises of the School's computers, servers, and other computing devices.

School employees' computers or computing devices shall not be left unattended and unlocked for extended periods of time, especially when logged into sensitive systems or data, including personally identifiable student or employee data. Automatic log off, locks, and password screen savers should be used to enforce this requirement.

The IT Security Manager shall ensure that all servers at the School undergo a security audit and evaluation before they are used by the School. Administrative access to servers shall be password protected. Any and all new servers must be registered and approved by the IT Security Manager. The maintenance and support of all new servers should be managed by the School's IT Security Manager, if possible.

The School shall install, distribute, and maintain spyware, malware, and virus protection software on all School-owned technology assets, including computers, computing devices, and servers.

Server rooms and telecommunication rooms/closets shall be protected by appropriate access control which segregates and restricts access from general office areas at the School. Access

control shall be enforced using keys, electronic card readers, or another similar method. Only IT and other School personnel whose job functions require access to such rooms shall be allowed unescorted access.

Before any third-party contractor is allowed access to any computer system, server room, or telecommunication room, the contractor shall be required to present a company issued identification card and his or her access must be confirmed directly by the School employee who issued the service request or by the IT Security Manager.

10. IDENTITY, AUTHENTICATION, AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT

The School shall grant access to its systems and network in accordance with the principles of least privilege and need-to-know. In addition, the School shall require unique identities and authentication in order to access the School's systems and network. This will ensure that users are identifiable and unable to repudiate their activities on the School's systems and network.

Passwords are a critical component of information security and the school shall enforce strong password management. All individual passwords connected to the use of the School's computer equipment, systems, and networks shall:

1. Be created and maintained in accordance with industry best practices;
2. Be maintained in a manner that reduces the threat of unauthorized access to sensitive data;
3. Be treated as confidential information and not be shared with anyone; and
4. Not be inserted into email messages or any other forms of electronic communication.

Any user suspecting that his or her password may have been compromised shall report the incident to the IT Security Manager and change all passwords.

11. DATA PROTECTION AND CRYPTOGRAPHY

One of the most effective ways to achieve data security is through encryption. To read an encrypted file, a person must have access to a secret key or password that enables the person to decrypt it.

Where technologically feasible, the School shall utilize encryption when transmitting sensitive data over the network.

All computers and other computing devices owned by the School, such as desktop computers, laptops, and tablets, that connect to the School's network and that may contain or transmit personally identifiable data must be configured to encrypt such data on any internal hard drive. Users must protect these devices from unauthorized use or access.

Personally identifiable data shall not be stored on external storage media such as external hard drives, flash drives, or DVDs unless such storage is authorized by the Student Data Manager

and the personally identifiable data on the external storage media is encrypted. Users must protect these external storage media from unauthorized use or access.

All employees or other users that need assistance or guidance on encrypting sensitive data on any School computer or device described in this section shall contact the IT Security Manager.

12. MONITORING, VULNERABILITY, AND PATCH MANAGEMENT

This area is concerned with minimizing the School's attack surface through the detection and mitigation of vulnerabilities and the early detection of intrusions.

The IT Security Manager shall:

1. Monitor the School's network so that it may detect and investigate security incidents when they occur;
2. Engage in effective vulnerability management and penetration testing in order to detect and remediate vulnerabilities when they occur in the School's computer equipment, systems, and applications; and
3. Perform regular patch management in order to maintain the School's information systems in a secure state.

13. HIGH AVAILABILITY, DISASTER RECOVERY, AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION

Procedures related to high availability, disaster recovery, and physical protection are intended to make it possible for the School to continue to operate successfully in the face of adversity, which may range from mild, routine failures of School computers to severe natural or man-made catastrophes.

The School will ensure the availability and recoverability of the School's data and data systems in accordance with industry best practices.

Physical access to the School's data centers shall be governed by the same access requirements applicable to server rooms and telecommunications rooms at the School.

14. INCIDENT RESPONSES

All incidents of network or system shutdown or failure shall be reported to the IT Security Manager immediately. The IT Security Manager shall utilize industry standards and current best practices in responding to and resolving such incidents.

Incidents involving a data breach shall be reported to the Student Data Manager who, along with the IT Security Manager, shall follow the data breach protocol set forth in the School's Data Governance Plan.

15. ACQUISITION AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

The School shall follow its purchasing and procurement policies when purchasing technology equipment.

The School will track, support, and manage all of its acquired technology assets (hardware and software) in a reasonable and effective manner.

16. POLICY, AUDIT, AND E-DISCOVERY TRAINING

The School shall provide training on its policies as required by law. This includes providing training to its employees, aids, and volunteers regarding information technology security matters on an annual basis. The School shall also provide training on audits and e-discovery as required by law.

17. REVIEWS AND AUDITS

The IT Security Manager shall periodically review the School's security policies, procedures, plans. The IT Security Manager shall ensure that security and privacy audits are performed as required by this Plan or by law.