

INSTRUCTION

ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET

General Information

The global electronic community, commonly referred to as the "Information Superhighway" or the "Internet," is a very valuable resource for education. The Internet (including, but not limited to, Internet sites, pages, files, email, online services, and bulletin board systems) provides access to a vast array of resources which can be used to support the curriculum by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The School Board's goal is to include the resources of the Internet in the District's instructional program where appropriate to increase learning and improve instruction. The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop an implementation plan for this policy, which will include administrative procedures for employee and student use of the Internet.

Use is a privilege, not a right, and therefore can be suspended or revoked. All use of the District's connection to the Internet must be in support of education and/or research, be consistent with the educational objectives, policies, rules, and regulations of the Board of Education, and be in compliance with and subject to District and building discipline codes.

General rules for behavior and communications, as stated in the District's and schools' codes of conduct, apply when using the Internet, whether the electronic connection is made at school or remotely through school district network interfaces. Breaches of the codes of conduct during use of the Internet will be treated as though they occurred "live", that is, within the school. **The failure of any student or employee to follow the terms of this policy or its administrative procedures, rules, or regulations may result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.** The District's *Employee Agreement for Internet Access* and the *Student/Parent Agreement and Permission for Internet Access* contain the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol for the Internet.

Electronic communications and downloaded material may be monitored, read, edited, or traced by school officials. Students and staff members have no expectations of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic networks or District computers.

Use by Teachers for Instructional Purposes

The use of the Internet will be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the student. Access to materials, sites, services, bulletin board systems, etc. from the Internet shall comply with the Board's selection policy for instructional materials and library-media center materials. Teachers may, consistent with the Superintendent's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

The Internet may be used in a variety of formats. These include email; online testing; teacher-selected material in a prescriptive setting; and "live" Internet interaction, in which material is not pre-selected.

Each teacher must complete a District training program (or its equivalent) and sign the District's *Agreement for Internet Access* as a condition for using the District's Internet connection, thereby becoming a "trained teacher" for purposes of this policy. A teacher may not use a live connection with students nor authorize such connection until such training is completed and the *Agreement* is signed. The Board will direct the Superintendent or his/her designee to establish the training program and schedule.

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Use by Employees for Job-Related Purposes

Use of the Internet by District employees must be job-related. Employees who use the Internet will be required to sign and comply with the *Employee Agreement for Internet Access*. For purposes of this policy, the term "employee" includes individual Board of Education members. All users of the District's computers to access the Internet shall maintain the confidentiality of student records. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is loaded onto the network.

Use by Students

Student control of live Internet interaction may only occur with specific authorization from a trained teacher. Such student control is subject to the *Student/Parent Agreement and Permission for Internet Access*, and requires student and parent acceptance of its terms and conditions. At the elementary and middle school levels, student control of live Internet interaction must be under the direct supervision of a trained teacher.

Children's Internet Protection Acts

In accordance with the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (Neighborhood Act), the District will monitor the online activities of minors, and operate a technology protection measure (filtering), with respect to any of its computers with Internet access, that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene (as that term is defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code), child pornography (as that term is defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code), or -- with respect to use of computers with Internet access by minors -- harmful to minors. For purposes of this policy, "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- (a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- (b) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact (as those terms are defined in Section 2246 of Title 18, United States Code), actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- (c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

The District will enforce the operation of the technology protection measure during any use of those computers by minors (individuals under the age of 17) and adults. However, an administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the District, may disable the technology protection measure concerned, during use by an adult, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful and appropriate purpose.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the District will ensure, through this policy and the Use Agreements related hereto:

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- (a) that minors are not provided with access to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web. Determinations regarding what matter is inappropriate for minors shall be made by the Board, using such criteria as it deems appropriate;
- (b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, social networking websites, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- (c) that minors are prevented from gaining unauthorized access, including so called "hacking", and other unlawful activities, while online;
- (d) that there is no unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors;
- (e) the use of appropriate measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors; and
- (f) that students will be educated about appropriate on-line behavior, including but not limited to: (1) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (2) cyber-bullying awareness and response.

Disclaimer

The School District is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved via the Internet. Though the District does provide and operate a technology protection measure (filtering), with respect to any of its computers with Internet access, it does not guarantee that all objectionable material will be restricted. Furthermore, the District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

Notice and Hearing

The Board will provide reasonable public notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address this policy, prior to its adoption.

Legal Ref.: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (P.L. 106-554); Children's Internet Protection Act (P.L. 106-554, Sec. 1701, *et seq.*); Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (P.L. 106-554, Sec. 1731, *et seq.*); Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6801, *et seq.*); Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. Sec. 254); 66 Fed. Reg. 19394 (April 16, 2001).

Adopted: February 27, 1997
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