

INSTRUCTION

USE OF COMPUTERS, COMPUTER NETWORK, AND INTERNET ACCESS

The Board of Education recognizes that the computer has become an important tool used, in one form or another, throughout American society for business, educational, household and entertainment purposes. The Board further recognizes that the ability to link and network computers is a significant aspect of their functionality, and that the Internet which can be accessed through such linkages is an increasingly significant source of information, while on-line interactive communications such as e-mail, instant messaging, newsgroups, bulletin boards, listserves, chat rooms, discussion groups and net meetings are now a standard form of interpersonal communication. The Board therefore, as part of the District's educational programs

- < makes computers available to staff and students and
- < provides them access to and training in the use of the Internet

both as tools to enhance their work and their learning, and in order to prepare students to use these tools as adults.

Like any tool, the computer can be misused. Misuse of a District computer can interfere with or damage the hardware and software components of the computer itself, the District's networked system, or remote sites accessible through the Internet. Additionally, not all sites and resources on the Internet are appropriate for access and use by students or under the auspices of a public school system. The Board therefore restricts the use of District computer resources, including its computer network, Internet access and the use of on-line interactive communications, to protect the District's computer system and its security, and to limit Internet access and on-line interactive communication to what is appropriate and necessary as part of the District's educational programs. Authorized District representatives may at any time review and monitor any file or data stored on District computers, or on removable media used on any District computer, and any electronic communication sent from or received by a District computer.

The Board also recognizes that computer and network technology continues to change, and that the precise language of this policy may not be explicitly applicable to new technologies, functionalities, or capabilities of computers and computer networks, or to new methods and modes of doing work or communicating by electronic means. This policy shall nonetheless apply to any and all such new computer or network technologies, functionalities and capabilities, and to any and all such new methods and modes of doing work or communicating by electronic means.

It is the policy of the Board

- < to make available the best computer and computer network resources possible within the constraints of the District's financial resources and personnel and plant capacities;

- < to make access to the Internet and on-line interactive communications available through the District computer system, subject to appropriate limitations;
- < to allow authorized Users remote access to programs and data maintained on District computers for appropriate purposes, while maintaining the safety and integrity of the District=s computers and computer network;
- < to take such measures, including limitations on the location, installation and configuration of District computer and network resources, as are necessary to preserve and protect District computer resources and other assets used in connection with the District computer network;
- < to take such measures, including monitoring of the use of District computer and network resources and investigation and review of all files maintained on District computers, as are necessary to ensure that District computer and network resources are being used appropriately, in accordance with District policy and regulations;
- < to monitor on-line activity of minors using District computer and network resources, in order to limit such activity to what is appropriate and necessary as part of the District=s educational programs;
- < to operate a technology protection measure, with respect to every District computer with Internet access, which protects against access, through such computer, to visual depictions that are
 - \$ obscene;
 - \$ child pornography;
 - \$ harmful to minors
- < to prohibit unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personally identifiable information concerning users, including students, through the use of District computer and network resources.

The Board directs the Superintendent to adopt administrative regulations containing procedures and rules for access to and use of District computer and network resources, including Internet access and on-line interactive communications, in order to

- < limit their use to what is appropriate and necessary as part of the educational program and other operations of the District;
- < preclude access through District computer and network resources to inappropriate materials;
- < prevent unauthorized access to District computer and network resources or to Internet resources through the District computer system;
- < prevent the use of District computer and network resources for unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of Users= personal information.

Such administrative regulations shall include procedures to inform students, parents, and staff concerning

- < the proper use of District computer and network resources, including access to the Internet
- < the limitations placed on such use
- < the ethical and responsible use of computers
- < the consequences for non-compliance with this Policy and those regulations.

As used in this Policy, the terms Atechnology protection measure,@ Aobscene,@ Achild pornography,@ and Aharmful to minors@ shall be defined as they are defined in the Children=s Internet Protection Act, 47 USC ' 254(h), and the term Apersonally identifiable information@ shall be defined as it is defined for purposes of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, in 34 CFR ' 99.3.

Adopted by Board of Education

Date: 07/12/05