

Instruction**Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet, Other Computer Networks and Internet Safety**

Telecommunications is radically changing the way the world accesses information. A computer network linked to the Internet (an international computer network made up of many contributing networks) represents a powerful educational resource unlike anything that precedes it. The district's primary purpose in using the Internet and the Hamden Public Schools' Network shall be to enhance teaching and learning through expanded resources, educational experiences and learning opportunities.

Using the Internet, educators and students can expand educational opportunities in many ways, some of which are listed here:

- Search for and access materials to meet educational and research information needs
- Consult with experts in various content areas
- Take courses virtually that are not available at school due to staffing, scheduling or other reasons
- Connect with collegiate and public libraries
- Communicate and collaborate directly with others locally or world-wide.
- Engage in electronic "field trips"
- Conduct experiments virtually that would be too dangerous, costly or time-consuming to conduct in person
- Publish and share ideas/work in writing, music, video, or images

Hamden Public Schools believes in the educational value of such electronic services and recognizes their potential to support our curriculum by expanding resources available for staff and student use. Effective use of these resources promotes educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. The skills required to effectively using technology and the Internet are vital to the long term success of our students when they enter higher education and/or the work force.

These technologies are expensive to purchase, install and maintain. As property of the Hamden Public Schools, technologies must be carefully handled and their integrity preserved for the benefit of all. Therefore, Hamden Public Schools will be treating the use of its technologies and access to the Internet and the Network as a privilege, and not a right. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and will act in a responsible and legal manner in accordance with district standards and state and federal laws.

Hamden Public Schools' technology department and educators will take an active role in ensuring that students and their parents, as well as staff, are aware of the individual user's responsibility in using Internet resources in an ethical and educational manner. Our goal is to provide individual users with the understanding and skills needed to use the Internet safely and in ways appropriate to their educational and work-related needs.

Hamden Public Schools is aware that the Internet is an unregulated communication environment in which information changes constantly, and that some of this information is inappropriate for users, based on age and/or development levels. Through our library-media curricula, all students learn about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals through email, on social networking sites and in chat rooms. The impact and seriousness of cyberbullying and how to respond to it are also addressed.

Hamden Public Schools has developed regulations regarding the acceptable use of its network and the Internet to establish each user's rights and responsibilities as well as to delineate certain prohibited activities.

This policy applies to all users of the system, which include students, staff and community members (The Hamden Public Schools' Network Community.) In order to use the Hamden Public Schools computers and related devices, Network and the Internet in school, students and staff must sign Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) agreements which describe the expectations for use of computers, related equipment and the Internet. Parents of younger students must also sign the agreement in order for their children to use these technologies.

Failure to abide by the provisions of the AUP and related regulations may result in the loss of privileges to use the Network and technologies. Violations of this policy by students may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. In the case of employees, violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

For both staff and students, Internet and Hamden Public Schools Network activity may be monitored at any time. Users should understand that there is no expectation of privacy when using the Network, Internet or any Hamden Public School technologies.

Illegal use of the Network, including intentional deletion, damage or malicious alterations to files or data belonging to others, hacking, copyright violations, theft of services or cyberbullying may be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution.

A Hamden Public Schools Network user shall be held responsible for damages to equipment, systems, or software resulting from intentional or willful acts.

Hamden Public Schools makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the service it is providing. Hamden Public Schools will not be responsible for any problems which occur while the user is on the Network. These problems include but are not limited to loss of data as a result of delays or otherwise, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by the Internet or the Network which include errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the user's own risk.

Internet Safety

The Hamden Public Schools' administration and staff recognize the possible dangers in using the Internet, but also understand the importance of using the Internet as part of a quality 21st century education. With this in mind, the district institutes procedures and processes to minimize and even eliminate possible dangers, since student safety is of the utmost importance. This includes using technological solutions such as filtering, which serve as a "technology protection measure" to block access to visual and audio depictions deemed obscene and/or potentially harmful to minors, including child pornography. Additionally, staff members monitor student Internet usage.

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee is authorized to establish guidelines for filtering and blocking of access to Internet sites in a manner that will not unreasonably interfere with student and staff acquisition of information appropriate to attaining the educational goals and objectives of the Hamden Public Schools.

In addition to the measures just described, Hamden Public Schools provides grade-appropriate instruction to students at the primary, intermediate, middle school and high school levels in how to use the Internet productively and safely, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-19(b)(11) Access to public records. Exempt records.

10-15b Access of parent or guardians to student's records.

10-209 Records not to be public.

11-8a Retention, destruction and transfer of documents.

11-8b Transfer or disposal of public records. State Library Board to adopt regulations.

46b-56(e) Access to Records of Minors.

Legal Reference: (continued)

Connecticut Public Records Administration Schedule V – Disposition of Education Records (Revised 1983).

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of PL 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g.).

Dept. of Education. 34 CFR. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45 FR 30802) regs. Implementing FERPA enacted as part of 438 of General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)- parent and student Privacy and other rights with respect to educational records, as amended 11/21/96.

Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000 (HR 4577, P.L. 106-554)
Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 254 (h), (I)
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F)

Public Law 94-553, The Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. 101 et.seq.

Reno v. ACLU, 521 U.S. 844 (1997)

Ginsberg v. New York, 390 U.S. 629, at 642, n.10 (1968)

Board of Education v. Pico, 457 U.S. 868 (1988)

Hazelwood School District v Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 620, 267 (1988)

Policy adopted: June 8, 2004
Policy amended: January 13, 2009, June 12.2012

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Hamden, Connecticut

Student Printed Name

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date