

HARRISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Acceptable Use Policy
Computer Network for Education

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide students and staff with the most current educational research tools available. As the school district expands its technological capabilities creating access to the Internet in computer laboratories, school libraries, classrooms and offices, the Board has determined the need to establish guidelines for the proper use of this extraordinary learning tool.

The Board is committed to optimizing student learning and teaching utilizing appropriate technology. The Internet is a vast electronic highway connecting hundreds of thousands of computers all over the world. The resources available through the Internet can add significantly to the instructional program by facilitating the access to and sharing of resources such as: library catalogues, universities, government agencies, periodicals, and other information sources.

Consistent with the scope of these learning and communication opportunities, the district has taken appropriate precautions to restrict student access to grossly inappropriate materials while permitting the widest latitude possible for legitimate research. A sophisticated filtering system, which can be overridden by professional staff, allows teachers to make professional judgements so that access may be maintained for material consistent with course objectives and the realization of student achievement. However, because of the daily changes on this global network, and parameters inherent in supervising large groups of students working independently at multiple workstations, it is impossible to develop any system that will completely monitor all material being accessed. The Board recognizes the potential for inappropriate use, but believes that the benefits and values of access to this wide base of information far outweigh any potential for misuse or the possibility that some users may procure inappropriate material.

To ensure the safe and appropriate use of the Internet, the Board has established that Internet access is provided for educational purposes and research consistent with the district's mission and goals. Priority for Internet use will always be given to those engaged in classroom or curriculum-related activities. The Board has also developed a list of prohibited behaviors, noted below. Those who violate this code will be subject to strict disciplinary measures, which can include suspension, loss of computer and Internet access, and/or any other appropriate consequences determined by the administration. Recognizing that no list of sanctioned behaviors is completely exhaustive, these prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Using profane, abusive or obscene language in either private or public messages
- Placing information obtained or used unlawfully on the Internet
- Using the Internet illegally in ways which violate federal, state and local laws
- Sending information over the Internet that is likely to damage the recipient's work or system
- Using the Internet for commercial purposes, specifically, offering or providing products or services
- Posting or e-mailing unauthorized solicitations on behalf of charities, other organizations or persons

- Using the Internet for more than incidental personal use
- Sending or receiving copyrighted material without permission
- Using another's password
- Using the Internet for accessing, sending, or receiving pornographic materials, similar inappropriate text files, or files dangerous to the system
- Circumventing security measures on school computers or computers outside the school network
- Falsifying one's identity to others while using the Internet
- Downloading unauthorized software from the Internet
- Installing unauthorized software programs
- Changing any computer files that do not belong to the user
- Attempting to gain access to files which are not publicly available
- Attempting to access sites on the Internet that are known to contain material inappropriate for schoolwork
- Using the Internet to harass or harm other people
- Sending hate mail, making discriminatory remarks, and any other similar antisocial activities
- Engaging in use with the purpose to cause others personal humiliation or embarrassment

Illegal activities are strictly prohibited. Any information pertaining to or implicating illegal activity will be reported to the proper authorities. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal, state and/or local law or regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to materials protected by copyright, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade secret. Users must respect all intellectual and property rights and laws.

Students and staff using the district's computer network should not expect, nor does the district guarantee privacy for electronic mail (e-mail) or any use of the district's computer network. The district reserves the right to access and view any material stored on district equipment or any material used in conjunction with the district's computer network.

The district makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, for the access being provided. Further, the district assumes no responsibility for the quality, availability, accuracy, nature or reliability of the service and/or information provided. Users of the district's computer network and the Internet use information at their own risk. Each user is responsible for verifying the integrity and authenticity of the information that is used and provided.

The district will not be responsible for any damages suffered by any user, including, but not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or the errors or omissions of any user. The district also will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations resulting from the use of or access to the district's computer network or the Internet.

Further, even though the district may use technical or manual means to regulate access and information, these methods do not provide a foolproof means of enforcing the provisions of the district policy and regulation.

The Superintendent will be responsible for maintaining a process for the dissemination of this policy to ensure that it is known and understood by staff, students and their parents and guardians. This shall include an annual dissemination and review by all teachers, in all classes, of age-appropriate Internet information and guidelines with students; inclusion of this policy in all student and parent handbooks; written dissemination of the policy to parents; posting of the policy in computer laboratories and in classrooms where Internet access is available; discussion at parent “open house” nights; and other such measures as the Superintendent may determine.

Adoption date: 7/12/06