

POLICY ————— PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM

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2361 – STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS/COMPUTERS AND RESOURCES

The Board recognizes as new technologies shift the manner in which information is accessed, communicated and transferred; these changes will alter the nature of teaching and learning. Access to technology will allow students to explore databases, libraries, Internet sites, bulletin boards, and social media while exchanging information with individuals throughout the world and providing unique opportunities to participate in interactive discussions. The Board supports access by students to these information and media sources but reserves the right to limit in-school use to materials appropriate for educational purposes. The Board directs the Superintendent to effect training of teaching staff members in skills appropriate to analyzing and evaluating such resources as to appropriateness for educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes technology allows students access to information and media sources that have not been pre-screened by educators using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer and internet social media networks and declares unethical, unacceptable or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking computer and network access privileges, and/or instituting legal action.

The Board provides access to computer networks/computers for educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate students access to computer networks/computers at any time, for any reason. School district personnel will monitor networks and online activity to maintain the integrity of the networks, ensure their proper use, and ensure compliance with Federal and State laws that regulate Internet safety.

Standards for Use of Computer Networks

Students are not permitted to do the following:

- A. Use the computer networks/computers for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities that violate federal, state, local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the networks. Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.
- B. Use the computer networks/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.

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- C. Post information that could cause either damage or the danger of a disruption to the district or the community or intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network or degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance.
- D. Engage in personal attacks against others, including but not limited to prejudicial or discriminatory attacks. Knowingly or recklessly post false information about a person or organization.
- E. Post information that harasses another, specifically information that is intended to upset or seriously annoy that person. Engage in any manner of bullying, or “cyber bullying.
- F. Attempt to login as a network administrator, “hack”, access another persons’ files, or go beyond their authorized access and/or invade the privacy of others.
- G. Engage in other activities that do not advance the educational purpose for which computer networks/computing devices are provided.

Internet Safety/Protection

As a condition for receipt of certain Federal funding, the school district shall be in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act, and has installed technology protection measures for all computers in the school district, including computing devices used for distance learning as well as in media centers/libraries. The technology protection must block and/or filter material and visual depictions that are obscene as defined in section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code; child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code; are harmful to minors including any pictures, images, graphic image file or other material or visual depiction that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way, with respect to what is suitable for minors, sexual acts or conduct; or taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

This Policy also establishes Internet safety policy and procedures in the district as required in the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act. This policy addresses access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web; the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; unauthorized access, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities by minors online; unauthorized disclosures, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Notwithstanding blocking and/or filtering the material and visual depictions prohibited in the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act, the Board and/or its designees shall determine other Internet material that is inappropriate for minors.

In accordance with the provisions of the Children’s Internet Protection Act, the Superintendent of Schools or designees will develop and ensure education is provided to every student regarding appropriate online behavior, including students interacting with other

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individuals on social networking sites and/or chat rooms, and cyber bullying awareness and response.

The school district will certify on an annual basis, that the schools, including media centers/libraries in the district, are in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act and the school district enforces the requirements of these acts and this Policy.

Consent Requirement

No student shall be allowed to use the school districts' computer networks/computing devices and the Internet unless they have filed with the Principal a consent form signed by the student and his/her parent(s). Students' right to free speech applies to communication on the internet, however, the Pequannock school district electronic system is a limited forum, similar to a school newspaper, in that the district may restrict a student's speech for valid education reasons.

Violations

Violations of this policy may result in loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Student's violations of this policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated within this policy as well as other appropriate discipline, which includes but is not limited to:

1. Use of the network only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer device privileges;
5. Revocation of computer device privileges;
6. Suspension from school;
7. Expulsion from school; and/or
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

The school administrators shall determine the particular consequences for violations of this policy. The Superintendent or designee and the Board of Education shall determine when school expulsion and/or legal action are the appropriate course of action.

N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-3

Federal Communications Commission: Children's Internet Protection Act.

Federal Communications Commission: Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act

Adopted: 11 November 1999

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