

## **Instruction**

### **Acceptable Use of Computers and Technology**

The Internet and electronic communications (e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of electronic communication) have vast potential to support curriculum and student learning. The Amity Regional School District (District) Board of Education (Board) believes they should be used in schools as a learning resource.

Use of the Internet and electronic communications require students to think critically, analyze information, write clearly, and use problem-solving skills, and hone computer and research skills that employers demand. A main goal of internet/computer use is the development of creative and innovative thought by students. Use of these tools also encourages an attitude of lifelong learning and offers an opportunity for students to participate in distance learning activities, ask questions of and consult with experts, communicate with other students and individuals, and locate material to meet educational and personal information needs.

The Board believes that the educational opportunities inherent in these tools far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material not consistent with the education goals of the District. However, the Internet and electronic communications are fluid environments in which students may access materials and information from many sources, including some that may be harmful to students. The Board acknowledges that while it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate or come into contact with, it shall take all reasonable steps to protect students from accessing material and information that is obscene, pornographic or otherwise harmful to minors, as defined by the Board. Students shall take responsibility for their own use of District computers and computer systems to avoid contact with material or information that may be harmful to minors.

### **Safe Usage and Monitoring of District Technology**

While the Internet/Intranet can provide students with a vast array of educational and informational resources, it can also be a window through which students can access information which is neither pertinent to nor appropriate for an educational setting. The availability of such electronic information does not imply endorsement by the Board of Education of its content nor of the use of such information by students and staff. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that students are not accessing such material.

In order to ensure the safety of its students, the ARSD subscribes to an Internet filtering service that blocks websites with potentially harmful material. The filter blocks objectionable sites from the District's computers and restricts the ability to chat. The Board recognizes that given the scope of the Internet, the filter may not restrict access to all controversial or potentially inappropriate materials. The possibility of accessing such material does not mean that the Board endorses such content or consents to the accessing of such material. ARSD staff shall supervise student use of the Internet.

The building principal will serve as the building-level coordinator for the ARSD system, will approve building-level activities, ensure teachers receive proper training in the use of the system and the requirements of this policy, establish a system to ensure adequate supervision of students using the

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system, shall maintain executed user agreements, and will be responsible for interpreting the District Acceptable Use Policy at the building level.

It is important to give student assistance and guidance in accessing information which is beneficial to their education and equally important to recognize that total monitoring of students' access to the Internet/Intranet would be impossible. While teachers and other staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise and monitor student use of District technology, they must have student and parent cooperation in exercising and promoting responsible use. Students will be educated about appropriate and safe online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response.

The ARSD reserves the right to obtain software alert system to aid the District in monitoring student use of District technology occurring both on and off school grounds. The focus of such a program is to identify potential self-harm, suicidal ideation, and cyberbullying by students. ARSD does not assume any duty or obligation to continuously monitor notifications or alerts and disclaims liability in accordance a full disclaimer statement provided to parents and students for their review. ARSD is under no obligation to obtain a software alert system and may discontinue use of an alert program without notice to students or parents.

All computers, including all hardware and software and all electronic files and communications stored on or transmitted by ARSD technology are the property of the ARSD. All files stored on ARSD networks or on ARSD technology remain the property of the ARSD and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such material.

### **Blocking or Filtering Obscene, Pornographic, and Harmful Information**

Software that blocks or filters material and information that is obscene, pornographic or otherwise harmful to minors, as defined by the Board, shall be installed on all District computers having Internet or electronic communications access. Students shall report access to material and information that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors or otherwise in violation of this policy to the supervising staff member. All devices using the Amity network will comply with recruiting standards as defined by the District.

### **No Expectation of Privacy**

District computers and computer systems are owned by the District and are intended for educational purposes at all times. Students shall have no expectation of privacy when using the Internet or electronic communications. The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store (at any time and without prior notice) all usage of District computers and computer systems, including all Internet and electronic communications access and transmission/receipt of materials and information. All material and information accessed/received through District computers and computer systems shall remain the property of the District.

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#### **Confidentiality**

All users of the District's computers and means of Internet access shall maintain the confidentiality of student records. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is placed onto the network.

#### **Acceptable Use Agreement**

Individual users of the ARSD network are responsible for their use of the network and other District technology and are expected to use it responsibly and lawfully. Students are to utilize the District's computers, networks, and Internet services and other District technology for school-related purposes only. This includes the use of email and social networks.

Students and parents are required to sign an Acceptable Use of Computers and Technology agreement each school year in order for a student to be authorized to access the ARSD's computers, networks and Internet services or other District technology.

In signing the agreement, the students and their parents acknowledge having read this policy and accompanying regulations and that they accept it in its entirety, including the provisions regarding the monitoring and review of student technology activity. If the student is 18 or older, a parent/guardian signature is not required.

Students who use ARSD computers, networks and Internet services for personal or non-academic purposes will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with this policy, its regulations, District student codes of conduct, and state law. Any incidental use by student must be with the permission of a teacher or administrator and for good reason.

A student and his parents may be responsible for costs associated with the repair or replacement of ARSD technology as a result of damage caused by a student through vandalism or irresponsible use.

#### **Prohibitions**

Inappropriate communications or other unacceptable uses or abuses of all ARSD technology, including all hardware/software, all electronic files/communications stored on or transmitted on District computers are prohibited. Specifically prohibited is any illegal use, or use that is a violation of Board policies, regulations, or school rules including, but not limited to, those prohibiting harassment, discrimination, bullying, defamation, violence, threatening, infringement of copyright or trademark laws, use involving obscene or pornographic materials or use that harms the reputation of the school District or its employees or disrupts the educational environment or causes damage to District technologies or services.

Prohibited also is student use of ARSD technology for Internet social networking, if such use is not directed by a teacher or school administrator in support of planned and approved learning activities.

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Students are strictly prohibited from using District technology to access personal social networking sites at any time. Students are also prohibited from using their personal electronic devices to view, access, or use personal social networking sites during the school day.

The District will not be liable for information/comments posted by students on ARSD social media websites that violate District policy, regulations, school rules, or state or federal law. The opinions expressed therein by students shall not be construed to represent the opinion of the school District. The District will not be liable for any information/comments posted by students to personal social networking sites. The District will not be responsible for any damages suffered by any user in the use of and/or access to District computers, networks, or the Internet and will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations resulting from such use or access.

### **Discipline Resulting from Violations**

The use of the District's computer systems, networks, the Internet, or other District technology is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to follow Board of Education policy and regulations at all times when using District computers, networks, the Internet or other District technology and when engaging in any permitted use of personal technology on school grounds.

Failure to follow this policy and its regulations and others related to the use of technology in and outside of school may lead to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion, as well as the loss of privileges to use technology in one or more locations within the school for specific periods of time. Illegal activity will also be reported to appropriate authorities. The Superintendent or his/her designee reserves the right to eliminate use of the District's computer systems or other District technology by any student at any time.

### **School System Property**

All ARSD computers including all hardware/software, all electronic files/communications stored on or transmitted on District computers, and other District technology are the property of the District and remain under the control, custody, and supervision of the ARSD. The ARSD reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store without prior notice information about the content and usage of ARSD computers, networks, Internet/Intranet, and all other District technology used by students.

Students should have no expectation of privacy in their use of District computers, networks, or other technology.

### **Regulations**

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to develop regulations for the acceptable and safe use of ARSD computers and technology including, but not limited to, electronic email, instant messaging, and use of social networking sites, chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

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The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and accompanying regulations and for advising the Board of the need for any future amendments or revisions to the policy/regulations.

The failure of any student or staff member to follow the terms of the authorization form, or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

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.

10-222d policy on bullying behavior, as amended by PA 11- 232

10-233c suspension of pupils

10-233d expulsion of pupils

10-53a-196g Possessing child pornography: affirmative Defenses

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.

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

53a-182b. Harassment in the first degree: Class D felony. (as amended by PA 95-143)

53a-183 Harassment in the second degree

53a-250 et seq. re computer-related offenses

28 USC 2510 through 2520, Electronics Communication

Privacy Act,

20 USC 6751-6777 Enhancing Education Through Technology Act, No Child Left Behind Act, Title II, Part D 6777 Internet Safety

20 U.S.C. 254 Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000

47 USC 254 Universal service discounts (E-rate Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47 54.520 Internet safety policy Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act 215; 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B)

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of PL93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g.).

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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)