

STUDENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

The policy is intended to provide general guidelines and examples of prohibited uses but does not attempt to state all required or prohibited activities by users. Failure to comply with District policy and these rules may result in loss of computer and Internet access privileges, disciplinary action and/or legal action.

A. Computer Use is a Privilege, Not a Right

Student use of the school's computers beyond classroom use, networks and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable use/activity may result in suspension or cancellation of privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

The Director of Technology shall have final authority to decide whether a student's privileges will be denied or revoked.

B. Acceptable Use

Student access to the Bristol Warren Regional School District computers, networks and Internet services are provided for educational purposes and research consistent with the district educational mission, curriculum and instructional goals.

The same rules and expectations govern student use of computers as apply to other student conduct and communications.

Students are further expected to comply with these rules and all specific instructions from the teacher or other supervisor when accessing Bristol Warren Regional School District computers, networks and Internet services.

C. Prohibited Use

The user is responsible for his/her actions and activities involving Bristol Warren Regional School District's computers, networks and Internet services and for his/her computer files, passwords and accounts. Examples of unacceptable uses that are expressly prohibited include but are not limited to the following:

1. Accessing/Transmitting Inappropriate Materials- Accessing, submitting, posting publishing, forwarding, downloading, scanning, or displaying materials that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing and/or illegal.

2. Illegal Activities- Using Bristol Warren Regional School District's computers, networks and Internet services for any illegal activity or activity that violates other district policies, procedures and/or school rules; such as encouraging the use of tobacco, alcohol or controlled substances.

3. Violating Copyrights- Copying or downloading copyrighted materials without the owner's permission.

4. Plagiarism- Representing as one's own work any materials obtained on the Internet (such as term papers, articles, etc.). When Internet sources are used in student work, the author publisher, and Web site must be identified.

5. Copying Software- Copying or downloading software without the express authorization of the system administrator.

6. Non-School-Related-Uses- Using the Bristol Warren Regional School District's computers, networks, and Internet services for non-school-related purposes such as private financial gain, commercial, advertising or solicitation purposes, or any other personal use.

7. Misuse of Password/Unauthorized Access- Sharing passwords, using other users' passwords without permission and/or accessing other users' accounts; forging or attempting to forge electronic mail messages.

8. Malicious Use/Vandalism- Any malicious use, disruption or harm to the Bristol Warren Regional School District's computers, networks and Internet services, including hacking activities and creating/uploading of computer viruses.

9. Unauthorized Access to Chat Rooms/News Groups- Accesses chat rooms or news groups without specific authorization from the teacher, supervisor, or administrator.

D. No Expectation of Privacy

Bristol Warren Regional School District retains control, custody and supervision of all computers, networks and Internet services owned or leased by Bristol Warren Regional School District. Bristol Warren Regional School District reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by students. Students have no expectations of privacy in their use of school computers, including email and stored files.

E. Compensation for Losses, Costs and/or Damages

The student and/or the student's parent/guardian shall be responsible for compensating the Bristol Warren Regional School District for any losses, costs or damages incurred by the Bristol Warren Regional School District and related to violations of these rules, including investigation of violations.

F. District Assumes No Responsibility for Unauthorized Charges, Costs or Illegal Use

Bristol Warren Regional School District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges made by students including but not limited to credit card charges, long distance telephone charges, equipment and line costs, or for any illegal use of its computers such as copyright violations.

G. Student Security

A student shall not reveal his/her or any other student/classmates full name, address or telephone number on the Internet. Students should never meet people they have contacted through the Internet without parental permission. Students should inform their teacher and/or administrator if they access information or messages that are dangerous, inappropriate or make them uncomfortable in any way.

H. System Security

The security of the Bristol Warren Regional School District's computers, networks and Internet services is a high priority. Any user who identifies a security problem must notify the teacher, administrator, or system administrator. The user shall not demonstrate the problem to others. Any user who attempts or causes a breach of system security shall have his/her privileges revoked and may be subject to additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

ADOPTED: February 20, 1996

REVISED: October 27, 2003

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, BRISTOL, RI