

INTERNET SAFETY

The Board of Education is committed to undertaking efforts that serve to make safe for children the use of district computers for access to the Internet and World Wide Web. To this end, although unable to guarantee that any selected filtering and blocking technology will work perfectly, the Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to procure and implement the use of technology protection measures that block or filter Internet access by:

- adults to visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography, and
- minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Subject to staff supervision, however, technology protection measures may be disabled or relaxed for adults conducting bona fide research or other lawful purposes, in accordance with criteria established by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee also shall develop and implement procedures that provide for the safety and security of users, including students, using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; monitoring the online activities of students using district computers; and restricting student access to materials that are harmful to minors.

In addition, the Board prohibits the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding students; unauthorized online access by students, including hacking and other unlawful activities; and access by students to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web. The Superintendent or designee shall establish and implement procedures that enforce these restrictions.

The district's supervisor of instructional technology and manager of management information systems (district's network administrators) shall monitor and examine all district computer network activities to ensure compliance with this policy and accompanying regulation. They also shall be responsible for ensuring that staff and students receive training on their requirements.

All users of the district's computer network, including access to the Internet and World Wide Web, must understand that use of technology in education is an essential component for learning, and that any such use is a privilege, not a right, and that any such use entails responsibility. They must comply with the requirements of this policy and accompanying regulation, in addition to generally accepted rules of network etiquette, and the district's Acceptable Usage Policy (4526). Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, the revocation of computer access privileges.

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As part of this policy, and the district's Acceptable Usage Policy (4526), the district shall also provide age-appropriate instruction regarding appropriate online behavior, including:

1. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the district's Internet Safety policy; and
2. Safety on the Internet; and
3. Interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms; and
4. Cyberbullying awareness and response.

Instruction will be provided even if the district prohibits students from accessing social networking site or chat rooms on district computers.

DEFINITIONS: Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

MINOR: The term "minor" means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.

TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE:

The term "Technology Protection Measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. OBSCENE, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, as that term is defined I section 2256 of title 18, United States Code, or
3. Harmful to minors.

HARMFUL TO MINORS:

The term "Harmful to Minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion,
2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals, and
3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTRACT

The terms "Sexual Act" and "Sexual Contact" have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

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Cross-Reference:

4526 Acceptable Usage

Reference:

Children's Internet Protection Act, Public Law No. 106-554

Broadband Data Services Improvement Act / Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act,
Public Law No. 110-385

47 USC §254

20 USC §6801

Date Adopted: 12-07-04

Date Amended: 10-20-20