

The Internet/Network is a unique opportunity to enhance instructional methods, appeal to different learning styles, and meet the educational goals of the board. Through the Internet/Network, users can observe events as they occur around the world, interact with others on a variety of subjects, and acquire access to current and in-depth information.

As the Internet/Network is made available in the schools, the use of the Internet/Network should be integrated into the educational program. The Internet/Network should be used in teaching the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and in meeting the educational goals of the board. The curriculum committee should provide suggestions for using the Internet/Network in the curriculum guides as provided in board policy 3115, Curriculum and Instructional Guides. Teachers are encouraged to further incorporate the use of the Internet/Network into their lesson plans.

The Director of Technology and Media shall ensure that school district computers with Internet/Network access comply with federal requirements regarding filtering software and Internet/Network safety policies. The Director of Technology and Media shall develop any regulations necessary to meet such requirements and will submit any certifications necessary to meet the requirements of the Children's Internet/Network Protection Act.

REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF THE INTERNET/NETWORK

The use of the Internet/Network is a privilege, not a right. Any users of the Internet/Network, including staff and students, must comply with the following requirements.

- The Internet/Network is provided and can only be used for school-related purposes. No right of privacy exists in any communication on the Internet/Network. The school district may monitor all communication and intercept e-mail messages as a part of ensuring compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations. The school district shall monitor all online activities of minors who access the Internet/Network via a school-owned computer.
- Students must meet all standards of expected student behavior and comply with all board policies and school standards and rules.
- Employees must comply with all relevant board policies in using the Internet/Network.
- No user of the Internet/Network, including a person sending or receiving electronic communications may engage in creating, intentionally accessing or transmitting images, documents or other material that is obscene, defamatory, pornographic, harassing or considered to be harmful to minors.
- All applicable laws and board policies apply, including those relating to copyrights/trademarks, confidential information and public records. Any use that violates state or federal laws is strictly prohibited.
- When using email, chat rooms or other forms of electronic communication, students must not reveal personally identifiable, private or confidential information, such as home address or telephone number, of

themselves or fellow students. In addition, school personnel shall not disclose on the Internet/Network or on school district web sites/pages any personally identifiable information concerning students (including name, address or pictures) without the permission of a parent/guardian or an eligible student, except as otherwise permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or board policy 4700, Student Records.

- Users of the school computer system or Internet/Network access are prohibited from engaging_ in unauthorized or unlawful activities such as “hacking” or using the computer network to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized or unlawful access to other computers or computer systems.
- If a user can identify a security problem on the Internet/Network or the school computer system, he/she must immediately notify a system administrator. Users shall not demonstrate the problem to other users. Any user identified as a security risk shall be denied access.
- Users (other than technology staff in performance of their duties) are prohibited from using another individual’s computer account. (Teachers/Staff are responsible for supervising students’ use of the Internet/Network.)
- Use of the Internet/Network for commercial gain or profit is not allowed from an educational site.
- Views may be expressed as representing the view of the school district or part of the school district only with prior approval by the superintendent or his or her designee.

RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Before a student may use the Internet/Network for any purpose, the parent/guardian must be made aware of the possibility that the student could obtain access to inappropriate material. The parent/guardian and student must sign a consent form acknowledging that the student user is responsible for appropriate use of the Internet/Network and consenting to the school district monitoring the student’s e-mail communication and use of the Internet/Network.

The board is aware that there is information on the Internet/Network that is not related to the educational program. The board also is aware that there is information and opportunities to communicate on subjects that are not suitable for school-age children and that many parent/guardian would find objectionable. The school district will take reasonable precautions to prevent students from having access to inappropriate materials, such as violence, nudity, obscenity or graphic language which does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose. The school district will install or will ensure that its Internet/Network service provider installs a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet/Network access to audio or visual depictions that are obscene, that are considered child pornography or that are harmful to minors. School official may disable such filters for an adult who uses a school-owned computer for bona fide research or other lawful educational purpose. The school district shall not seek to limit access to the Internet/Network for the purpose of restricting access to political ideas or social perspectives if the action is not rated simply by a school district official’s disapproval of the ideas involved. However, the user is ultimately responsible for his or her activity on the Internet/Network.

Legal Reference: U.S. Const. amend. I; 17 U.S.C. 100 et seq.; Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2522; Children’s Internet/Network Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §254(h)(5); Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; G.S. 115C-391, -325(e)

Cross Reference: Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Technology in the Educational Program (policy 3220), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Copyright Complaint (policy 3230/7330), Public Records (policy 5070), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300)

Adopted: