Education Programs

Series 600

Policy Title **RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE INTERNET & ON-LINE SERVICES** Policy # 602.8

The Board of Directors of the Benton Community School District is committed to providing students, staff, and community members with a wide range of electronic learning facilities, equipment, and software, including computer network services. The Board encourages and expects that all users of electronic learning be responsible and comply with district policy related to its operation and use. Because technology is a vital part of the school district curriculum, the Internet will be made available to employees and students. Appropriate and equitable use of the Internet will allow employees and students to access resources unavailable through traditional means.

Student Internet records and access records are confidential records treated like other student records. Students' internet activities will be monitored by the school district to ensure students are not accessing inappropriate sites that have visual depictions that include obscenity, child pornography or are harmful to minors. The school district will use technology protection measures to protect students from inappropriate access, including sites that include obscenity, child pornography or are harmful to minors.

The internet can provide a vast collection of educational resources for students and employees. It is a global network which makes it impossible to control all available information. Because information appears, disappears and changes constantly, it is not possible to predict or control what students may locate. The school district makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of information received on the Internet. Although students will be under teacher supervision while on the network, it is not possible to constantly monitor individual students and what they are accessing on the network. Some students might encounter information that may not be of educational value. The school district will use technology protection measures to protect students from inappropriate access, including sites that include obscenity, child pornography or are harmful to minors.

The school district will monitor the online activities of students and will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting on social networking sites and chat rooms. Students will also be educated on cyber-bullying, including awareness and response. Employees will provide age appropriate training for students who use the Internet. The training provided will be designed to promote the school district's commitment to:

- The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the Internet Safety Policy;
- Student safety with regard to:
  - safety on the Internet;
  - appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms;
  - cyber-bullying awareness and response; and
  - spoofing or misrepresentation.
- Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act

The Benton Community School District has taken the appropriate measures to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act. The school district is required to filter out Internet services through our Internet provider, Grant Wood AEA 10**.** This product is a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access. This technology protection measu*r*e will eliminate access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or with respect to use of computers with Internet access by minors – harmful to minors.

The Board further recognizes that each of the following parties has specific responsibilities related to this access.

The Board will make best efforts to:

1. Review and update this policy every three years as necessary.
2. Provide an investigative procedure to take appropriate action related to any allegations of unacceptable or inappropriate electronic transmission of socially unacceptable or illegal material.
3. Provide background information and a standard consent form for employees, parents, and students to sign before access is provided.

The school district and buildings will make best efforts to:

1. Inform students, parents, and staff of the educational benefits, as well as the potential risks involved in the use of computers and computer network services outside the jurisdiction of the District or school.
2. Ensure that students and parents have read this policy and its regulations and have signed a standard District consent form before any access is granted.

The school district staff will make best efforts to:

1. Include in its school handbooks, newsletters, curriculum, and instruction the requirements and responsibilities associated with computers and computer networks.
2. Offer required classes to all students and parents prior to use of computer networks.
3. Maintain a district wide software and network system screening procedures to ensure acceptable use.

The school district staff will make best efforts to:

1. Review and comply with this policy and other related policy references.
2. Instruct all students in the nature of the risks involved in accessing information or communicating with others through networks.
3. Provide students with guidelines for minimizing risks when using network services.
4. Monitor student use of the computer and networks during classroom instruction and supervised study.

The parent/guardian will make best efforts to:

1. Attend required training and information sessions on the acceptable use guidelines and District policies related to computers and computer network services.
2. Read the acceptable use guidelines and District policies prior to signing the District consent form.
3. Surrender access to system privileges when District association is terminated.

The student will make best efforts to:

1. Attend required information sessions on the acceptable use guidelines and District policies prior to signing the consent form.
2. Conduct his/her activities in accordance with the guidelines and policies as established by the District and school.
3. Conduct all activities in a responsible, ethical, legal and courteous manner, especially when using network services.

In compliance with federal law, this policy will be maintained at least five years beyond the termination of funding under the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) or E-rate.

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