

Instruction

Internet/Computer Network Use

Online Social Networking

The Internet and electronic communications have vast potential to support curriculum and student learning. The Board of Education (Board) believes they should be used in school as a learning resource both in developing student literacy and providing on-going professional staff development activities. The Board realizes that existing and emerging smart technologies present new challenges to the educational community.

The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and guidelines for access to the District's computer system and acceptable and safe use of Internet social networking tools/sites.

Electronic information research skills are fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the District's computer system and the Internet enables students and staff to explore global resources while exchanging messages with people around the world. The District's computer system has a limited educational purpose, which includes its use for classroom activities, educational research and professional or career development activities. Users are expected to use Internet access through the District system to further educational and personal goals consistent with the District's mission and school policies. The District's computer network is considered a limited forum enabling the restriction of speech for valid educational reasons. For safety purposes, the District employs both Internet filters and firewalls.

Students may not access social media sites using District equipment, while on District property or at District-sponsored activities unless the posting is approved by a District representative/teacher/staff member. Social media websites are websites such as, but not limited to, Facebook, MySpace, Flickr and Twitter.

The District will not be liable for information/comments posted by students on social media websites when the student is not engaged in District activities and not using District equipment.

The School District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the School District and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

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Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of this policy are the following:

1. Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. This includes the transmittal of offensive or harassing messages; offering for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by District policy; viewing, transmitting or downloading pornographic materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law; intruding into the networks or computers of others; and downloading or transmitting confidential, trade secret information, or copyrighted materials.
2. Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property. This includes defamation (harming another's reputation by lies); employment of another's password or some other user identifier that misleads message recipients into believing that someone else is communicating or otherwise using his/her access to the network or the Internet; uploading a worm, virus, "trojan horse," "time bomb" or other harmful form of programming or vandalism; participation in "hacking" activities or any form of unauthorized access to other computers, networks, or information systems.
3. Uses that jeopardize the security of student access and of the computer network or other networks on the Internet. For example disclosure or sharing personal passwords with others; impersonation of another user.
4. Uses that are commercial transactions. Students and other users may not sell or buy anything over the Internet. Private information shall not be shared.

(cf. 6141.321 – Computer Acceptable Use Policy)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

119(b)(11) Access to public records. Exempt records.

1015b Access of parent or guardians to student's records.

10209 Records not to be public.

11-8a Retention, destruction and transfer of documents

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

11-8b Transfer or disposal of public records. State Library Board to adopt regulations.

46b56 (e) Access to Records of Minors.

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of PL 93568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g.).

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.106554)

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)

Policy revised: October 06, 2016

CHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEEP RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ESSEX PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4

Appendix A – Internet Safety Agreement**Internet/Computer Network Use****Acceptable Use Policy – Use of the Internet and Other Information Technologies****Statement of Purpose**

Internet access is available to students and staff in the Regional School District #4. We believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and staff. Our goal in providing this service to staff and students is to promote educational excellence in the schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Regional School District #4 has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We (Regional School District #4) firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the District. It is our goal to provide individual users with the understanding and skills needed to use the Internet in ways appropriate to their individual educational needs.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. Guidelines are provided here so that users are aware of the responsibilities they are provided. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Regional School District #4 user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could be denied.

Terms of Agreement

In order for a student to be allowed access to a school computer system, computer network and the Internet, parents must sign and return the attached consent form.

Terms and Conditions of Use

1) **Acceptable Use** – All accounts must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of Regional School District #4. Use of other organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network.

Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material.

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6141.321(e)

Appendix A – Internet Safety Agreement

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Acceptable Use Policy – Use of the Internet and Other Information Technologies

2) **Privacy/Monitoring Notification.** All computer communication systems, and all communications and stored information transmitted, received, or contained in the Network's systems are property of Regional School District #4 and are to be used only for school-related purposes. Network use will be monitored from time to time. Users must be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of the district computer system.

3) **Privileges** - The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of privileges.

4) **Expectations** - Users are required to adhere to the following expectations.

- a.) Under no conditions should passwords be shared.
- b.) Any attempt to degrade the performance of the Network is prohibited.
- c.) Users must abide by all copyright laws
- d.) Commercial software may not be installed without the express permission of the administration.
- e.) Use of the Network for any illegal activities is prohibited

In addition, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law, by Board policy or by school rules or regulations, use of these computer systems for the purpose of carrying out such behavior or activity is also prohibited.

5) **Network Etiquette** – Expectations include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a) Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
- b) Use appropriate language.
- c) Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- d) Do not reveal your personal address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
- e) Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private from administration or others.

6) **Security** - Computer system security is a high priority. If there is suspicion of a breach of security, you must notify administration.

7) **Vandalism** - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges.

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6141.321(d)

Appendix A – Internet Safety Agreement

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School District Internet Use Agreement

I understand and will abide by the above Internet Use Agreement. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action.

User's Full Name: _____

User Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

As the parent or guardian of _____ (student name), I have read the Internet Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes.

Regional School District #4 has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print): _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____

