## Access to Electronic Networks

Electronic networks, including the Internet, are a part of the District's instructional program in order to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The Superintendent or designee shall develop an implementation plan for this policy in conjunction with the school principals and technology system administrator.

The District is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved or transmitted via the Internet. Furthermore, the District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

*Curriculum*

The use of the District's electronic networks shall (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students, and (2) comply with the selection criteria for instructional materials and library-media center materials. Staff members may, consistent with the District's philosophy of education and instructional resources selection and usage, use the Internet throughout the curriculum. Internet based subject matter/media should comply with Board Policy and Administrative Procedure appropriateness and, when possible and appropriate, be previewed by the teacher. Any questions regarding appropriateness should be directed to the building principal prior to use.

*Acceptable Use*

All use of the District's electronic network must be (1) in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the Board's stated goal, or (2) for a legitimate school business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic network or District computers. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. The District's *Authorization for Electronic Network Access* contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user's account but not erased, may be monitored or read by school officials.

*Internet Safety*

Each District computer with Internet access shall have a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent. The Superintendent, with the assistance of the principals and technology system

administrator, shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the Superintendent.

The District will take measures to prevent: (1) user access over its electronic networks to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; and (2) unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity, such as "hacking."

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of students, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. To the extent practicable, steps will be
taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District's electronic networks when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. District staff will be responsible for educating, supervising, and monitoring appropriate usage of the electronic networks.

The District will establish a program to educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Cyberbullying, sometimes referred to as Internet bullying or electronic bullying, is being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material or engaging in other forms of social cruelty using the Internet or other digital technologies, such as emails, instant messaging, text messages, web pages, blogs, or chat rooms.

*Authorization for Internet Access*

All users of the District's computers and means of Internet access shall maintain the confidentiality of student records or other personally identifiable information. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is loaded onto the network. The failure of any student or staff member to follow the terms of the *Authorization for Electronic Network Access*, or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action

Legal References: Children's Internet Protection Act, P.L. 106-554
47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B) Requirements for Schools with Computers Having Internet Access

Cross References:

Policy History:
Adopted on: 8/13/09
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