

Instruction

Telecommunications/Internet: Acceptable Use

The Board of Education recognizes the educational value of electronic communications and recognizes their potential to support the Board's educational program. Resource sharing, communication, and innovation capabilities for both students and teachers have increased with access to telecommunications and to the Internet. It is imperative that members of the school community conduct themselves in a responsible manner consistent with federal and state law while utilizing the Internet and any other electronic information retrieval system.

Guidelines for General Use

With increased access to information from various sources via computers comes the availability of material that may not have any educational value in the context of the school setting. The Board recognizes the importance of the exercise of individual judgment in accessing information through the Internet and any other electronic information retrieval system for educational purposes. In the exercise of such judgment, however, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Access to the Internet or to any other electronic information retrieval service is a privilege, not a right. Accordingly, access to such systems is given only to those individuals who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner and agree to comply with Board policies and procedures.
- All uses of the Internet or any electronic information retrieval service or any telecommunications network must be supportive of educational objectives and research and must be consistent with academic expectations.
- Any electronic mail shall be used only by the authorized owner of the account. All account owners are ultimately responsible for activity under their account.
- All electronic mail systems, the Internet and any electronic information retrieval systems are the sole property of the Board. As such, systems are provided solely for the purpose of carrying out the educational and operational needs of the Board.
- Any use inconsistent with this purpose, including personal use is prohibited. Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private; the Board of Education as owner of the computer and electronic systems reserves the right to monitor the use of such systems in order to insure compliance with these guidelines by, e.g., bypassing passwords.
- Any use of the Board's computer systems, E-mail systems, Internet or other electronic information retrieval systems for illegal or inappropriate purposes or for accessing material that is objectionable in any school environment, including vulgar or obscene materials, is prohibited.
- Any use of these electronic systems for commercial purposes, financial gain, or solicitation is prohibited.
- The transmission of any copyrighted or legally protected material over such electronic systems is prohibited.

- Materials taken from electronic media are subject to the same rules for plagiarism as print materials.
- The transmission of abusive, harassing, threatening or intimidating materials is prohibited. The user is expected to be polite and courteous while using the Board's electronic systems.
- Any attempt to harm or destroy data of another user or engage in acts of vandalism will not be tolerated.
- Violations of this policy may result in revocation of access to and privileges relating to the Internet or any electronic information retrieval systems. Violations of this policy by a student may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. In the case of any breach of this policy by an employee, such disciplinary action may include discharge.
- The Superintendent of Schools will appoint one or more administrators to serve as the Board's "Internet Administrator", who will be responsible for implementing this policy, establishing procedures, and supervising access privileges.
- **Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in the use of district electronic devices or resources including school-owned computers and tablets, district networks, and school email and other electronic accounts.**

Internet Safety

Each district computer with Internet access shall have a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic or harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Superintendent or his/her designee 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 or his/her designee.

NOTE: The policy's provision for prior approval is not in the law and may be omitted. The entire sentence may be deleted if the Board does not want the filtering device to be disabled.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan and administrative regulation to address the following:

- a. Limiting student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials;
- b. Student safety and security when using electronic communications;
- c. Limiting unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities; and
- d. Limiting unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information.

Guidelines for Student Uses

Student use of the Internet and any other electronic information retrieval services is a privilege. Students in the Board's schools may use the Internet and any other electronic informational retrieving systems owned by the Board only when supervised by a teacher or a paraprofessional. Further guidelines for the use of these electronic services may be developed by the Board's Internet Administrator.

Students who wish to use such electronic services and networks that are available to them may only do so provided that they:

1. Agree to comply with the Board's Internet acceptable use policies and, if applicable, any procedures adopted thereunder.
2. Sign the Board's Internet users agreement parent permission form, having obtained the signature of one parent or guardian if the student is under the age of eighteen.
3. Submit the completed agreement and consent form to the person so designated in each school building.
4. Do not make credit card or COD purchases over the Internet.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[53a-182b](#) Harassment in the first degree: Class D felony. (as amended by PA 95-143)

Every Student Succeeds Act

20 U.S.C. 254 Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000

47 U.S.C. Children's Online Protection Act of 1998

Public Law 110-385 Broadband Data Improvement Act/Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

Policy adopted: September 21, 2017

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Derby, Connecticut