

Instruction

Internet/Computer Networks Use

The Internet and electronic communications (e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of electronic communication) have vast potential to support curriculum and student learning. The Board of Education believes they should be used in schools as a learning resource.

Use of the Internet and electronic communications require students to think critically, analyze information, write clearly, and use problem-solving skills, and hone computer and research skills that employers demand. Use of these tools also encourages an attitude of lifelong learning and offers an opportunity for students to participate in distance learning activities, ask questions of and consult with experts, communicate with other students and individuals, and locate material to meet educational and personal information needs.

The Board believes the educational opportunities inherent in these tools far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material not consistent with the education goals of the District. However, the Internet and electronic communications are fluid environments in which students may access materials and information from many sources, including some that may be harmful to students. The Board acknowledges that while it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate or come into contact with, it shall take all reasonable steps to protect students from accessing material and information that is obscene, pornographic or otherwise harmful to minors, as defined by the Board. Students shall take responsibility for their own use of District computers and computer systems to avoid contact with material or information that may be harmful to minors.

Blocking or Filtering Obscene, Pornographic and Harmful Information

Software that blocks or filters material and information that is obscene, pornographic or otherwise harmful to minors, as defined by the Board, shall be installed on all District computers having Internet or electronic communications access. Students shall report access to material and information that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors or otherwise in violation of this policy to the supervising staff member. If a student becomes aware of other students accessing such material or information, he or she shall report it to the supervising staff member.

No Expectation of Privacy

District computers and computer systems are owned by the District and are intended for educational purposes at all times. Students shall have no expectation of privacy when using the Internet or electronic communications. The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store (at any time and without prior notice) all usage of District computers and computer systems, including all Internet and electronic communications access and transmission/receipt of materials and information. All material and information accessed/received through District computers and computer systems shall remain the property of the District.

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Internet/Computer Networks Use (continued)

Unauthorized and Unacceptable Users

Students shall use District computers and computer systems in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner.

Because technology and ways of using technology are constantly evolving, every unacceptable use of District computers and computer systems cannot be specifically described in policy. Therefore, examples of unacceptable uses include but are not limited to, the following:

No student shall access, create, transmit, retransmit or forward material or information that:

- Promotes violence or advocates destruction of property including, but not limited to, access to information concerning the manufacturing or purchasing of destructive devices or weapons;
- Is not related to District education objectives;
- Contains pornographic, obscene or other sexually oriented materials, either as pictures or writings that are intended to stimulate erotic feelings or appeal to prurient interests;
- Harasses, threatens, demeans, or promotes violence or hatred against another person or group of persons with regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status, disability or handicap;
- Is for personal profit, financial gain, advertising, commercial transaction or political purposes;
- Plagiarizes the work of another;
- Uses inappropriate or profane language offensive in the school community;
- Is knowingly false or could be construed as intending to purposely damage another person's reputation;
- Is in violation of any federal or state law, including but not limited to copyrighted material and material protected by trade secret;
- Contains personal information about themselves or others, including information protected by confidentiality laws;
- Uses another individual's Internet or electronic communications account without permission from that individual;
- Impersonates another or transmits through an anonymous remailer; and
- Accesses fee services without specific permission from the system administrator.

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Internet/Computer Networks Use (continued)

Security

Security on District computer systems is a high priority. Students who identify a security problem while using the Internet or electronic communications must immediately notify a system administrator. Students shall not demonstrate the problem to other users. Logging on to the Internet or electronic communications as a system administrator is prohibited.

Students shall not:

- use another person's password or any other identifier;
- gain or attempt to gain unauthorized access to District computers or computer systems; and
- read, alter, delete or copy, or attempt to do so, electronic communications of other system users.

Any user identified as a security risk, or as having a history of problems with other computer systems, may be denied access to the Internet and electronic communications.

Safety

Students shall not reveal personal information, such as home address or phone number, while using the Internet or electronic communications. Without first obtaining permission of the supervising staff member, students shall not use their last name or any other information that might allow another person to locate him or her. Students shall not arrange face-to-face meetings with persons met on the Internet or through electronic communication.

Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in school disciplinary action and/or legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious or intentional attempt to harm, destroy, modify, abuse or disrupt operation of any network within the District or any network connected to the Internet, operation of any form of electronic communications, the data contained on any network or electronic communications, the data of another user, usage by another user, or District-owned software or hardware. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses and the use of encryption software.

Unauthorized Software

Students are prohibited from using or possessing any software that has been downloaded or is otherwise in the user's possession without appropriate registration and payment of any fees owed to the software owner.

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Internet/Computer Networks Use (continued)

Assigning Student Projects and Monitoring Student Use

The District will make every effort to see that the Internet and electronic communications are used responsibly by students. Administrators, teachers, and staff have a professional responsibility to work together to monitor student's use of the Internet and electronic communications, help students develop the intellectual skills needed to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and evaluate and use information to meet their educational goals. Students shall have specifically defined objectives and search strategies prior to accessing material and information on the Internet and through electronic communications.

All students shall be supervised by staff while using the Internet or electronic communications.

Student Use is a Privilege

Use of the Internet and electronic communications demands personal responsibility and an understanding of the acceptable and unacceptable uses of such tools. Student use of the Internet and electronic communications is a privilege, not a right. Failure to follow the use procedures contained in this policy will result in the loss of the privilege to use these tools and may result in school disciplinary action and/or legal action. The school District may deny, revoke or suspend access to District technology or close accounts at any time.

Students and parents/guardians shall be required to sign the District's Acceptable Use Agreement annually before Internet or electronic communication accounts shall be issued or access shall be allowed.

School District Makes No Warranties

The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, related to the use of District computers and computer systems, including access to the Internet and electronic communications services. Providing access to these services does not imply endorsement by the District of the content, nor does the District make any guarantee as to the accuracy or quality of information received. The School District shall not be responsible for any damages, losses or costs a student suffers in using the Internet and electronic communications. This includes loss of data and service interruptions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet and electronic communications is at the students' own risk.

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Internet/Computer Networks Use (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

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

20 U.S.C. Section 6777, No Child Left Behind Act

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

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

Policy Revision adopted:
3/12/07

Orange Board of Education
Orange, CT 06477

Guidelines for General Use

It is important to recognize that with increased access to computers and people all over the world there also comes the availability of controversial material that may not be considered of educational value in the context of the school setting. Further, the school district recognizes the importance of each individual's judgment regarding appropriate conduct in maintaining a quality resource system. While this policy does not attempt to articulate all required or proscribed behavior, it does seek to assist in such judgment by providing the following guidelines.

1. All use of the Internet, electronic services, or any telecommunications network must support educational objectives or research.
2. Any electronic mail accounts shall be used only by the authorized owner of the account. Account owners are ultimately responsible for all activity under their account.
3. All communications and information accessible via a network should be assumed to be private.
4. Any use of the district's computing resources or networks for illegal or inappropriate purposes, accessing materials that are objectionable in a public school environment, or supporting such activities is prohibited. Language that is deemed to be vulgar is also prohibited. Illegal activities shall be defined as a violation of the intended use of the service or network. Inappropriate use shall be defined as a violation of the intended use of the service or network. Objectionable is defined as materials that are identified as such by the rules and policies of the Board of Education that relate to curriculum materials and textbook adoption.
5. Any use of telecommunication opportunities for commercial purposes, financial gain, product advertisement, political lobbying, or an over attempt to disrupt the use of the services by others is prohibited.
6. The Board of Education has no control of the information on the Internet. Other sites accessible via the Internet may contain material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people.
7. Violations of the provisions stated in this policy may result in suspension or revocation of access privileges to the Internet, electronic services, or district networks.

The Superintendent shall supervise the "District Internet Administrator" and will assume in cooperation with the "District Internet Administrator" the responsibility for implementing this policy, establishing procedures, and supervising access privileges.

Guidelines for Student Use

Student use of electronic services is considered to be a privilege.

Students at the elementary level may use telecommunications or the Internet only when supervised by a teacher or teacher aide. The District Technology Committee will develop guidelines for the use of these electronic services by elementary students.

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Instruction

Telecommunications/Internet - Acceptable Use (continued)

All students who wish to use electronic services and networks that are available to them may do so provided that they:

1. Read and sign the Acceptable Use Policy;
2. Sign Orange's "Network and Internet Use Agreement" (contract);
3. Obtain the signature of one parent/guardian on the contract;
4. Submit the completed Network and Internet Use Agreement (contract) to the curriculum facilitator in their school.

Any parent or student who wishes to appeal any decision relative to Orange's Acceptable Use Policy should contact the Superintendent.

Regulation approved: 7/8/96

Revised & approved: 2/9/98

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Telecommunications/Internet - Acceptable Use

Network and Internet Use Agreement

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the Orange School District.

The Board of Education is pleased to bring this access to Orange and believes the network and Internet offer vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

- 1) electronic mail communication with people all over the world;
- 2) information and news from NASA as well as the opportunity to correspond with the scientists at NASA and other research institutions;
- 3) public domain software and shareware of all type;
- 4) discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from Chinese culture to the environment to music to politics; and
- 5) access to many University Library Catalogs, the Library of Congress, and ERIC.

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. The Orange School District has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. Student access to the Network and Internet will be supervised by staff. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We 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.

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. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a district user violates any of these provisions, his or her privileges/account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

Network and Internet – Terms and Conditions

- 1) **Acceptable Use** - The purpose of the National Science Foundation Network (NSFNET), which is the backbone network to the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of telecommunications, (an electronic mail account), must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Orange School District. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any United

Telecommunications/Internet - Acceptable Use

Internet - Terms and Conditions

States or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities, product advertisement, or political lobbying is prohibited.

- 2) **Privileges** - The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. (Each student who uses the Internet or who receives an account will be part of a discussion with a district faculty member pertaining to the proper use of the network.) System administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and the decision is final. Also, the system administrators may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff may request the District Internet administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.
- 3) **Network Etiquette** - You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
 - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
 - c. Do not reveal your personal address or phone number or those of students or colleagues.
 - d. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - e. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
 - f. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
4. The Orange School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The district will not be responsible for any damages such as loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors, or omissions. The district specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained from the Internet.
- 5) **Security** - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a system administrator or your Superintendent. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges and/or appropriate disciplinary action. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to Internet.

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Telecommunications/Internet - Acceptable Use

Internet - Terms and Conditions (continued)

6) **Vandalism** - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to the NSFNET Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses. If there is any cost involved in repairing such vandalism, the cost will be assumed by the parent/guardian or the student if he/she is 18 years or older.

Orange Public Schools

Network and Internet Use Agreement (Contract)

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the School District.

The Board of Education is pleased to bring this access to Orange and believes the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

STUDENT

I understand and will abide by the above Internet Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action.

Student Signature

Date

School

Grade

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Internet Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. The School District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the 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 for my child to access the Internet, to have an account, and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent or Guardian's Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date