

Harrisburg School District

Internet and Information Systems Users

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Purpose

The Board of School Directors recognizes the important role that computers and other forms of technology play in a student's education and in the pursuit of the District's educational goals. The Board, therefore, has authorized the Superintendent or his/her designee to make available computing and networked information resources such as the Internet, which may be used by District students, faculty, and staff. These resources, however, are intended to be used solely for educational purposes and to carry out the legitimate business of the District.

The use of networked facilities shall be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students.

Authority

The use of these resources by students, faculty and staff is considered a privilege which may be denied for inappropriate and/or illegal use as set forth in this and related policies. Furthermore, violations of the guidelines set forth by the District or other improper use of these resources may result in disciplinary action in accordance with established disciplinary procedures for students, faculty and staff.

The Board expects all students, faculty and staff to be law-abiding citizens, to respect the rights of others, and to refrain from behavior which tends to impair the District's purpose or its reputation within the community. The framework of responsible, considerate and ethical behavior expected by the District, as set forth in policy and guidelines, covers the use of District microcomputers, workstations, computing laboratory facilities, general access timesharing systems, and network and networked resources.

The electronic information available to and prepared by students, faculty and staff does not imply endorsement of the content by the District nor does the District guarantee the accuracy of information received on the Internet.

The District reserves the right to log network use and to monitor fileserver space utilization by all District users. Accordingly, system users possess no privacy expectation in the contents of their personal files on the District system. Specifically, routine maintenance and monitoring of the system may lead to discovery that the user has or is violating this or other policies of the District and/or the law of the United States of America or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Moreover, an individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that a user has violated the law or the District's policies. Finally, District employees should be aware that their personal files may be discoverable under state public records law.

Responsibility

Use of these resources as well as any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, that the functions

or the services provided by or through the District system will be error-free or without defect. Specifically, the District **will not** be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of services. The District also **will not** be responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through or stored on the system. Finally, the District **will not** be responsible for any financial obligations arising from the unauthorized use of the system.

The District shall make every effort to ensure that this educational resource is used responsibly by students, faculty and staff, including, but not limited to, taking every reasonable step to control access to material inappropriate to the educational mission of the District.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will have the responsibility of developing administrative guidelines and forms governing use of the District network to include, but not be limited to, (i) the establishment of "User Contracts" and/or individual accounts; (ii) procedures by which parents will be notified of the particulars of the District network and the policies governing its use; (iii) procedures by which parents, in accordance with Chapter 5 of the Pennsylvania Code of Regulations, may have their child(ren) excused from specific instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs; (iv) procedures/policies designed to attempt to insure personal safety while using the Internet-, and (v) prohibitions against use of the network for such activities as fund-raising and/or personal commercial or financial gain, political campaigning/lobbying, unlawful purposes, or for any other purpose inconsistent with the educational mission of the District.

Administrators, teachers and staff have a professional responsibility to work together to help students develop the intellectual skills necessary to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and to evaluate and use the information to meet their educational goals.

Students, faculty and staff have the responsibility to respect and protect the rights of every other user in the District and on the Internet. Students and staff are expected to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner in accordance with District policy, accepted rules of network etiquette, and Federal and state law.

Consequences

The consequences for inappropriate use, including those consequences set forth by contract or District policy, are as follows:

1. The user shall be financially responsible for all costs associated with damage to hardware, systems and software resulting from deliberate or willful acts.
2. The user will be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution for vandalism to the hardware, systems and software; illegal use of the network; intentional deletion or damage to files of data belonging to the District or others; copyright infringement; theft of services; etc.
3. Access privileges may be suspended for a specified period of time, including permanently, as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.