HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: ACCEPTABLE USE OF

INTERNET, COMPUTERS AND

NETWORK RESOURCES

ADOPTED:

**REVISED:** 

# 815. ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET, COMPUTERS AND NETWORK RESOURCES

1. Purpose

The Board supports use of the **computers**, Internet **and other network resources** in the district's instructional **and operational** programs in order to facilitate learning, teaching **and daily operations** through interpersonal communications and access to information, research and collaboration.

The district provides students, staff and other authorized individuals with access to the district's computers, electronic communication systems and network, which includes Internet access, whether wired or wireless, or by any other means.

**For instructional purposes,** the use of the Internet and network 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.

2. Definitions

The term child pornography is defined under both federal and state law.

18 U.S.C. Sec. 2256

Child pornography - under federal law, is any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where:

- 1. The production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- 2. Such visual depiction is a digital image, computer image, or computergenerated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or
- 3. Such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

## 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6312

Child pornography - under state law, is any book, magazine, pamphlet, slide, photograph, film, videotape, computer depiction or other material depicting a child under the age of eighteen (18) years engaging in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of such act.

The term harmful to minors is defined under both federal and state law.

### 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6777 47 U.S.C. Sec. 254

Harmful to minors - under federal law, is any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:

- 1. Taken as a whole, with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
- 2. Depicts, describes or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- 3. Taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

### 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5903

Harmful to minors - under state law, is any depiction or representation in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse, when it:

- 1. Predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors;
- 2. Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and
- 3. Taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors.

### 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5903

Obscene - any material or performance, if:

- 1. The average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the subject matter taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest:
- 2. The subject matter depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct described in the law to be obscene; and

3. The subject matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value.

47 U.S.C. Sec. 254

Technology protection measure - a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors.

**3.** Authority

The **availability of access to** electronic information does not imply endorsement by the district of the content, nor does the district guarantee the accuracy of information received. The district shall not be responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged or unavailable when using the network or for any information that is retrieved via the Internet, including but not limited to data **that is** graphic, video, **audio,** text, etc.

The district shall not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet **or other network resources**.

Pol. 218, 233, 317

The Board declares that computer and network use is a privilege, not a right. The district's computer and network resources are the property of the district. Users shall have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, delete, receive or display on or over the district's Internet, computers or network resources, including personal files or any use of the district's Internet, computers or network resources. The district reserves the right to monitor, track, and log network access and use; monitor fileserver space utilization by district users; or deny access to prevent unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal activity and may revoke access privileges and/or administer appropriate disciplinary action. The district shall cooperate to the extent legally required with the Internet Service Provider (ISP), local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to the misuse of the district's Internet, computers and network resources.

The Board requires all users to fully comply with this policy and to immediately report any violations or suspicious activities to the Superintendent or designee.

47 U.S.C. Sec. 254

The Board establishes the following materials, in addition to those stated in law and defined in this policy, that are inappropriate for access by minors:

- 1. Defamatory.
- 2. Lewd, vulgar, or profane.
- 3. Threatening.

	Pol. 103, 103.1, 104, 248, 348	4. Harassing or discriminatory.
	Pol. 249	5. Bullying.
	Pol. 218.2	6. Terroristic.
	24 P.S. Sec. 4604 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6777 47 U.S.C. Sec. 254	The district reserves the right to restrict access to any Internet sites or functions it deems inappropriate through established Board policy, or the use of software and/or online server blocking and filtering. Specifically, the district operates and enforces a technology protection measure(s) that blocks or filters access to inappropriate matter by minors on its computers used and accessible to adults and students. The technology protection measure shall be enforced during use of computers with Internet access.
	24 P.S. Sec. 4604	Upon request by students or staff, the Superintendent or designee shall expedite a review and may authorize the disabling of Internet blocking/filtering software to enable access to material that is blocked through technology protection measures but is not prohibited by this policy.
	24 P.S. Sec. 4610 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6777	Upon request by students or staff, building administrators may authorize the temporary disabling of Internet blocking/filtering software to enable access for bona fide research or for other lawful purposes. Written permission from the parent/guardian is required prior to disabling Internet blocking/filtering software for a student's use. If a request for temporary disabling of Internet blocking/filtering software is denied, the requesting student or staff member may appeal the denial to the Superintendent or designee for expedited review.
4.	Delegation of Responsibility	The district shall make every effort to ensure that this resource is <b>used</b> responsibly by students and staff.
	24 P.S. Sec. 4604	The district shall inform staff, students, parents/guardians and other users about this policy through employee and student handbooks, posting on the district web site, and by other appropriate methods. A copy of this policy shall be provided to parents/guardians, upon written request.
	Pol. 815.1	Users of district networks or district-owned equipment shall, prior to being given access or being issued equipment, sign user agreements acknowledging awareness of the provisions of this policy, and awareness that the district uses monitoring systems to monitor and detect inappropriate use and may use tracking systems to track and recover lost or stolen equipment.  Student user agreements shall also be signed by a parent/guardian.

Administrators, teachers and staff have a professional responsibility to work together to help students develop the intellectual skills necessary to **discern** 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, staff **and other authorized individuals** have the responsibility to respect and protect the rights of every other user in the district **and on** the Internet.

Building administrators shall **make initial determinations of whether** inappropriate use **has occurred.** 

20 U.S.C. Sec. 6777 47 U.S.C. Sec. 254 47 CFR Sec. 54.520 The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for recommending technology and developing procedures used to determine whether the district's computers are being used for purposes prohibited by law or for accessing sexually explicit materials. The procedures shall include but not be limited to:

- 1. Utilizing a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access for minors and adults to certain visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors with respect to use by minors, or determined inappropriate for use by minors by the Board.
- 2. Maintaining and securing a usage log.
- 3. Monitoring online activities of minors.

47 U.S.C. Sec. 254

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative regulations that ensure students are educated on network etiquette and other appropriate online behavior, including:

1. Interaction with other individuals on social networking web sites and in chat rooms.

SC 1303.1-A Pol. 249 2. Cyberbullying awareness and response.

5. Guidelines

Network accounts **shall be** used only by the authorized owner of the account for its **approved** purpose. Network users shall respect the privacy of other users **on the system.** 

#### Access To Information

Information is no longer restricted to books, libraries, and broadcast media. The World Wide Web is the most up-to-date source of information on every conceivable topic. Countless organizations globally contribute to its content. **Students** and teachers **may** use this rich source of global information regularly in their classrooms. New skills are required – the skills of scanning, assessing for relevance and selecting from the vast amount of information retrieved. **District teachers and staff shall** assist students in developing skills necessary to use this resource responsibly and in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations.

#### **Safety**

It is the district's goal to protect users of the network from harassment and unwanted or unsolicited electronic communications. Any network user who receives threatening or unwelcome electronic communications or inadvertently visits or accesses an inappropriate site shall report such immediately to a teacher or administrator. Network users shall not reveal personal information to other users on the network, including chat rooms, e-mail, social networking web sites, etc.

47 U.S.C. Sec. 254 47 CFR Sec. 54.520

Internet safety measures shall effectively address the following:

- 1. Control of access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web.
- 2. Safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- 3. Prevention of unauthorized online access by minors, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities.
- 4. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
- 5. Restriction of minors' access to materials harmful to them.

	<u>Prohibitions</u>
	Users are expected to act in a responsible, ethical <b>and legal</b> manner in accordance with district policy, accepted rules of <b>network</b> etiquette, and federal and state law. <b>Specifically,</b> the following uses are prohibited:
	Facilitating illegal activity.
	2. Commercial or for-profit purposes.
	3. Nonwork or nonschool related work.
	4. Product advertisement or political lobbying.
SC 1303.1-A	5. Bullying/Cyberbullying.
Pol. 249	<b>6.</b> Hate mail, discriminatory remarks, and offensive or inflammatory communication.
	7. Unauthorized or illegal installation, distribution, reproduction, or use of copyrighted materials.
Pol. 237	8. Accessing, sending, receiving, transferring, viewing, sharing or downloading obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal materials, images or photographs.
	9. Access by students and minors to material that is harmful to minors or is determined inappropriate for minors in accordance with Board policy.
	10. Inappropriate language or profanity.
	11. Transmission of material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipien
	12. Intentional obtaining or modifying of files, passwords, and data belonging other users.
	13. Impersonation of another user, anonymity, and pseudonyms.
Pol. 814	14. Fraudulent copying, communications, or modification of materials in violation of copyright laws.
	15. Loading or using of unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electron

media.

- 16. Disruption of the work of other users.
- 17. Destruction, modification, abuse or unauthorized access to network hardware, software and files.
- 18. Accessing the Internet, district computers or other network resources without authorization.
- 19. Disabling or bypassing the Internet blocking/filtering software without authorization.
- 20. Accessing, sending, receiving, transferring, viewing, sharing or downloading confidential information without authorization.
- **21.** Use of student electronic mail, unauthorized chat rooms and/or other forms of direct electronic communication for noneducational purposes. Student e-mail and chat rooms **may** only be permitted if part of a specific class activity and **shall** be monitored by the respective instructor.

#### Security

System security **is protected** through the use of **passwords and** an Internet firewall, which will only **allow** access to authorized users. **Failure to adequately protect or update passwords could result in unauthorized access to personal or district files. To protect the integrity of the <b>system**, these guidelines **shall** be followed:

- 1. Employees and students shall not reveal their passwords to another individual.
- 2. **Users are not to use a computer that has been** logged in under another student's or employee's name.
- 3. Any user identified as a security risk **or having a history of problems with other computer systems** may be denied access to the network.

#### Copyright

17 U.S.C. Sec. 101 et seq Pol. 814 The illegal use of copyrighted **materials** is prohibited. Any data uploaded to or downloaded from the **network** shall be subject to fair use guidelines **and applicable laws and regulations.** 

#### **District Web Site**

The district shall establish and maintain a web site and shall develop and modify its web pages to present information about the district under the direction of the Superintendent or designee. All users publishing content on the district web site shall comply with this and other applicable district policies.

Users shall not copy or download information from the district web site and disseminate such information on unauthorized web pages without authorization from the building principal.

Consequences For Inappropriate Use

24 P.S. Sec. 4604 **The network** user shall be responsible for damages to the equipment, systems, and software resulting from deliberate or willful acts.

Illegal use of the network; intentional deletion or damage to files **or data** belonging to others; uploading or creating computer viruses; copyright violations; and theft of services **shall** be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution.

General rules for behavior and communications apply when using the Internet, in addition to the stipulations of this policy.

Vandalism shall result in loss of access privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal proceedings. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet or other networks; this includes but is not limited to uploading or creating computer viruses.

Pol. 218, 233, 317

Failure to comply with this policy or inappropriate use of the Internet, district network or computers shall result in usage restrictions, loss of access privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal proceedings.

**References:** 

School Code - 24 P.S. Sec. 1303.1-A

PA Crimes Code – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5903, 6312

Child Internet Protection Act – 24 P.S. Sec. 4601 et seq.

