

## **Student Access to Networked Information Resources**

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of the society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The Board generally supports access by students to rich information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship.

Telecommunications, electronic information sources and networked services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources. In the past, instructional and library media materials could usually be screened, prior to use, by committees of educators and community members intent on subjecting all such materials to reasonable selection criteria. Telecommunications, because they may lead to any publicly available fileservers in the world, will open classrooms to electronic information resources which have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees during an Age of Information. The Board expects that staff will blend thoughtful use of such information throughout the curriculum and that the staff will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources. Staff will consult the guidelines for instructional materials contained in *Board Policy IJ* and will honor the goals for selection of instructional materials contained therein.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner.

Independent student use of telecommunications and electronic information resources will be permitted upon submission of permission forms and agreement forms by parents/guardians of minor students (under 18 years of age) and by students themselves.

To ensure that student Internet access on district computers and technology is subject to the district's filtering and technology protection measures, student use of Internet-ready district computers or technology devices shall be primarily restricted to district property and the district's network. While on district premises, students may use only district networks when using district computers and technology devices. Students shall not be permitted to remove Internet-ready district computers or technology devices from district property unless the devices in question include one or more technology protection measures.

Access to telecommunications will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefits to students from access to telecommunications, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents/guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Weld County School District RE-5J schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for independent access.

## Internet and Electronic Mail Permission Form

We are pleased to offer students of the Weld County School District RE-5J schools access to the district computer network for electronic mail and the Internet. To gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students under the age of eighteen (18) must obtain parental permission and must sign and return this form to the library media specialist. Students eighteen (18) years and over may sign their own forms.

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents/guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Weld County District RE-5J schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

### District Internet and E-Mail Rules

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parental/guardian permission is required for all minors. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will always be private.

Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources *such as television, telephones, movies, radio* and other potentially offensive media.

To ensure that student Internet access on district computers and technology is subject to the district's filtering and technology protection measures, student use of Internet-ready district computers or technology devices shall be primarily restricted to district property and the district's network. While on district premises, students may use only district networks when using district computers and technology devices. Students shall not be permitted to remove Internet-ready district computers or technology devices from district property unless the devices in question include one or more technology protection measures.

As outlined in Board policy and procedures on student rights and responsibilities, copies of which are available in school offices, the following are not permitted:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures.
- Using obscene language.
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others.
- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks.
- Violating copyright laws.
- Using others' password.
- Trespassing in others' folders, work or files.
- Intentionally wasting limited resources.
- Employing the network for commercial purposes.

Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

Date Adopted: **12/08/2003**

Date Revised: **05/12/2010**

Date Revised: **01/09/13**

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. 6801 *et seq.* (*Elementary and Secondary Education Act*)  
47 U.S.C. 231 (*Child Online Protection Act of 1998*)  
47 U.S.C. 254(h) (*Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000*)  
C.R.S. 24-72-204.5 (*monitoring electronic communications*)  
C.R.S. 22-87-101 (*Children's Internet Protection*)

### User Agreement and Parent/Guardian Permission Form

As a user of the Weld County School District RE-5J schools computer network, I hereby agree to comply with the above stated rules – communicating over the network in a reliable fashion while honoring all relevant laws and restrictions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

As the parent or legal guardian of the minor student signing above, I grant permission for my son/daughter to access networked computer services *such as electronic mail and the Internet*. I understand that individuals and families may be held liable for violations. I understand that some materials on the Internet may be objectionable, but I accept responsibility for guidance of Internet use – setting and conveying standards for my son/daughter to follow when selecting, sharing or exploring information and media.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## **Student Access to Networked Information Resources**

### **Program Development**

When appropriate, in order to match electronic resources as closely as possible to the approved district curriculum, district personnel will review and evaluate resources in order to offer "home pages" and menus of materials which comply with Board guidelines listed in *Board Policy JJ* governing the selection of instructional materials. In this manner, staff will provide developmentally appropriate guidance to students as they make use of telecommunications and electronic information resources to conduct research and other studies related to the district curriculum. All students will be informed by staff of their rights and responsibilities as users of the district network prior to gaining access to that network, either as an individual user or as a member of a class/group.

As much as possible, access to district information resources will be designed in ways which point students to those which have been reviewed and evaluated prior to use. While students may be able to move beyond those resources to others which have not been evaluated by staff, they shall be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to the learning objectives. Students may pursue electronic research independent of staff supervision only if they have been granted parental/guardian permission and have submitted all required forms. Permission is not transferable and may not be shared.

### **Internet Rules**

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The following are not permitted:

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- Violating copyright laws.

- Using others' passwords.
- Trespassing in others' folders, work or files.
- Intentionally wasting limited resources.
- Employing the network for commercial purposes.

**Sanctions**

1. Violations may result in a loss of access.
2. Additional disciplinary action may be determined at the building-level in line with existing practice regarding inappropriate language or behavior.
3. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.