Acceptable Use In-school of the Internet and Other Networks policy

The Internet and electronic communications (e-mail, chat rooms, blogs, instant messaging, pod casts, websites 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 school as a learning resource both in developing student literacy and providing on-going professional staff development activities.

The Internet is a "network of networks" which is used by many organizations including schools, government and businesses. It should be viewed as an educational tool similar to books, CD-ROMS, videos, periodicals and other information sources. Because it is impossible to predict or control what information might be accessed, it is the responsibility of students and staff to adhere to this Acceptable Use Policy.

The District requires responsible behavior and ethical on the part of all Internet users. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in restriction of access to the Internet and/or disciplinary actions.

The operation of the Internet relies heavily on the proper conduct of the users, who must adhere to strict guidelines. Internet access is a privilege, not a right. If a district user, faculty member, staff member or student, violates any of the acceptable use provisions outlined in this document, his/her access privilege may be terminated and future access may be denied. Violations may also result in disciplinary action from school officials.

Students shall use the Internet only with permission and supervision of a teacher, administrator, or authorized staff member.

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.

Responsible use of the Internet and other networks includes, but is not limited to:
- research
- instructional activities
- electronic mail

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.

- any illegal activity
- using electronic communications to harass others
- using the Internet for monetary gain
- vandalism of hardware or software
- using inappropriate or abusive language or behavior

Acceptable Use In School of the Internet and Other Networks policy (continued)

- unauthorized access
- misusing and abusing passwords
- violating copyright law or engaging in plagiarism
- pornography
- private and commercial uses
- personal political activity
- downloading, installing or using software without authorization
- revealing personal identifiable information about oneself and others. Personal identifiable information includes, but is not limited to, names, photographs, family members' names
- personal identifiers such as social security numbers, student ID numbers and information about characteristics making it easy to trace a student's identity.

District Rights

The District shall include measures to address the following and/or reserves the rights to:

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.
e. Deem what is appropriate use and determine whether specific uses of the network are consistent with this acceptable use policy.
f. Monitor all activity on the Waterbury Public Schools Wide Area Network, computer network, including Internet, homepages, email accounts, blogs, pod casts and other forms of electronic communication.
g. Log network use and monitor storage disk space utilization by users.
h. Cooperate fully with any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activity.
i. Monitor school websites for content in accordance with Policy 5145.2.

All students and staff must sign an agreement to adhere to this Acceptable Use Policy. Student agreements must be co-signed by either parents/guardians.

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 adopted by the Waterbury Board of Education on March 7, 2013

Acceptable Use In-school of the Internet and Other Networks, regulations

- Must be in support of educational objectives and research consistent with the district policy

- Must use rules of network etiquette, which include the use of appropriate language and polite responses

- No abusive language of any type, including swearing and name-calling

- Be considerate of others on the Internet

- Send appropriate E-mail to others and understand that E-mail is not guaranteed to be private

- Unauthorized use of copyrighted material is prohibited

- Never divulge personal information; this includes but is not limited to personal address, telephone number, credit card number, bank account number, social security number, etc

- Do not share your password with anyone

- Do not interfere with or disrupt network users, services, traffic, or equipment (Disruptions include, but not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer viruses, and attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services)

- Do not engage in activities which are prohibited under local, state or federal law

- Do not use telecommunications access to transmit threatening, obscene, or harassing materials

- Do not retrieve or send unethical, illegal, immoral, inappropriate or unacceptable information including, but not limited to, sexually explicit materials pornographic materials, hate materials, devil worshiping, etc.

A message regarding the Use of the Internet is located in the student handbook.

Regulations approved by the Waterbury Board of Education on March 7, 2013