



STUDENTS

5118.5

Student Use of Computer Systems and Internet Safety

Computers, computer networks, Internet Access, and e-mail are effective and important technological resources in today's educational environment. The Montville Board of Education has installed computers, a computer network, including Internet access and e-mail system (referred to collectively as "the computer systems"), in order to enhance both the educational opportunities for our students and the business operations of our district.

These computer systems are business and educational tools. As such, they are made available to students in the district for education related uses. The Administration shall develop regulations setting forth procedures used by the Administration in an effort to ensure that such computer systems are used by students solely for education related purposes. The Board will educate the students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals, social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response. Additionally, the Board will implement a technology protection measure to block or filter Internet access to visual depictions that contain obscene material, contain child pornography, or are harmful to students and ensure that such filtering technology is operative during computer use by students.

As the owner of the computer systems, the Board reserves the right to monitor the use of the district's computers and computer systems.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, Pub. Law 106-554, codified at 47 USC 254(h)

Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250

Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC 2510 – 2520

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. Law 107-110, codified at 20 USC 6777

Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, Pub. Law 110-385, Codified at 47 USC 254(h)(5)(B)(iii)

Policy adopted: October 27, 2009

Student Use of Computer Systems and Internet Safety

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Introduction

We are pleased to offer students access to the district's computers and computer networks, including access to electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet (which will be referred to collectively as "computer systems".) Access to the school's computers systems will enable students to explore libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with others. Such access is provided solely for education-related purposes. Use of the district's computer systems will be allowed only for students who act in a considerate and responsible manner in using such systems.

The Board of Education and the Administration believe in the education value of such computer systems and recognize their potential to support our curriculum by expanding resources available for staff and student use. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

These computer systems are expensive to purchase, install and maintain. As the property of the district these computer systems must be carefully handled and their integrity preserved for the benefit of all. Therefore, *access to the computer systems is a privilege, and not a right*. Students will be required to adhere to a set of policies and procedures, as set forth in detail below. Violations may lead to withdrawal of the access privilege and/or disciplinary measures in accordance with the Board's student discipline policy.

Definitions

Obscene – means any material or performance if, a) taken as a whole, it predominantly appeals to the prurient interest, b) it depicts or describes in a patently offensive way a prohibited sex act and c) taken as a whole, does not have serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. For the purposes of this section, "prohibited sex act" means erotic fondling, nude performance, sexual excitement, sado-masochistic abuse, masturbation or sexual intercourse.

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

- (a) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- (b) such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- (c) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Harmful to minors – any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- (a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

- (b) 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 a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- (c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

Monitoring

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer systems just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the computer systems are often public in nature and general school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and will act in a responsible and legal manner, at all times in accordance with district standards, as well as with state and federal laws.

It is important that students and parents understand that the district, *as the owner of the computer systems, reserves the right to monitor and review* the use of these computer systems. The district intends to monitor and review in a limited fashion, but will do so as needed to ensure that the systems are being used for district-related educational purposes.

As part of the monitoring and reviewing process, the district will retain the capacity to bypass any individual password of a student or other user. *The system's security aspects, such as personal passwords and the message delete function for e-mail can be bypassed for these purposes.* The district's ability to monitor and review is not restricted or neutralized by these devices. The monitoring and reviewing process also includes, but is not limited to; oversight of Internet site access, the right to review emails sent and received, the right to track students' access to blogs, electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms, and the right to review a student's document downloading and printing.

Therefore, all users must be aware that *they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of these computer systems.*

Student Conduct

Students are permitted to use the district's computer systems for legitimate educational purposes. Personal use of district computer systems is expressly prohibited. Conduct which constitutes inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to computer systems;
- Damaging computers, computer files, computer systems or computer networks;
- Downloading or modifying computer software of the district in violation of the district's licensure agreement(s) and/or without authorization from a teacher or administrator;
- Using another person's password under any circumstances;
- Trespassing in or tampering with any other person's folders, work or files;

- Sending any message that breaches the district's confidentiality requirements, or the confidentiality of students;
- Sending any copyrighted material over the system;
- Using computer systems for any personal purpose, or in a manner that interferes with the district's educational programs;
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors, as defined above;
- Transmitting or receiving e-mail communications or accessing information on the Internet for non-educational purposes;
- Cyber-bullying.

In addition, as noted above, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law, by Board policy or by school rules or regulations, use of these computer systems for the purpose of carrying out such behavior or activity is also prohibited.

Misuse of the computer systems, or violation of these policies and regulations, may result in loss of access to such computer systems as well as other disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion, depending on the specific conduct.

Anyone who is aware of problems with, or misuse of these computer systems, or has a question regarding the proper use of these computer systems, should report this to his or her teacher or principal immediately. Most importantly, the Board and the Administration urge *any* student who receives *any* harassing, threatening, intimidating or other improper message through the computer system to report this immediately. It is the Board's policy that no student should be required to tolerate such treatment, regardless of the identity of the sender of the message. *Please report these events!*

Internet Safety

The Administration will take measures: to assure the safety and security of students when using e-mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; to prohibit unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by students online; to prohibit unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students; to educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response; and to restrict students' access to online materials that are harmful, including obscene materials and child pornography.

Required

Each student authorized to access the school unit's computers, networks and Internet services is authorized to sign an acknowledgment form stating that they have read policy 5000 and these regulations. The acknowledgment form will be retained in the cumulative file.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, Pub. Law 106-554, codified at 47 USC 254(h)

Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 USC 2510 - 2520

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. Law 107-110, codified at 20 USC 6777

Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, Pub. Law 110-385, Codified at 47 USC 254(h)(5)(B)(iii)
18 USC 2256 (definition of child pornography)

Miller v California, 413 US 15 (1973) (definition of obscene)

Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250
(Computer related offenses)

Conn. Gen. Stat. 53a-193 (definition of obscene)

**Montville Public Schools
Oakdale, CT 06370**

**STUDENT AND COMPUTER INTERNET USE
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

No student shall be allowed to use school computers or the Internet until he/she has signed and returned this acknowledgment.

I have read policy 5118.5 – Acceptable Computer Network Use and its Administrative Regulations and understand their terms and conditions.

Printed Name

Signature

Date