

POLICY

Board of Education

Bernards Township

File Code: 2361

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER NETWORK/ COMPUTERS AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the manner in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred that those changes will alter the nature of teaching and learning. Access to telecommunications will allow pupils to explore databases, libraries, Internet Sites, bulletin boards, and the like while exchanging information with individuals throughout the world. The Board supports access by pupils to information sources but reserves the right to limit in school use to materials appropriate to educational purposes. The Board directs the Superintendent to effect training of teaching staff members in skills appropriate to analyzing and evaluating such resources as to appropriateness for educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes that telecommunications will allow pupils access to information sources that have not been pre-screened by educators using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer networks and declares unethical, unacceptable, or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privilege, and/or instituting legal action.

The Board provides access to computer network/computers for educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate pupil access to the computer network/computers at any time, for any reason. The Board retains the right to have District personnel monitor network activity, in any form necessary, to maintain the integrity of the network and insure its proper use.

Standards for Use of Computer Networks

Any individual engaging in the following actions when using computer networks/computers shall be subject to discipline or legal action:

- A. Using the computer network(s)/computers for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities that violate federal, state, local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the network. Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.
- B. Using the computer network(s)/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.
- C. Using the computer network(s) in a manner that:
 1. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network--included, but not limited to chain letters, junk mail & spamming;

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2. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
3. Uses the computing resources of our District for commercial purposes, financial gain, or fraud;
4. Steals data or other intellectual property;
5. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another user;
6. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
7. Forges electronic mail messages or uses an account owned by others;
8. Invades privacy of others;
9. Posts anonymous messages;
10. Possesses any data which is a violation of this policy;
11. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer network/computers are provided;
12. Introducing malicious programs into the network or server (e.g., viruses, worms, Trojan horses, email bombs, etc.);
13. Using a Bernards Township Board of Education computing asset to procure or transmit material that is in violation of sexual harassment or hostile workplace laws in the user's local jurisdiction;
14. Making fraudulent offers of projects, items, or services originating from any Bernards Township Board of Education account;
15. Effecting security breaches or disruptions of network communication. Security breaches include, but are not limited to, accessing data of which you are not an intended recipient or logging into a server or account that you are not expressly authorized to access, unless these duties are within the scope of regular duties. "Disruption" includes, but is not limited to, network sniffing, pinged floods, packet spoofing, denial of service, and forged routing information for malicious purposes;
16. Port scanning or security scanning, unless you previously notify Bernards Township Board of Education;
17. Executing any form of network monitoring that will intercept data not intended for your host, unless this activity is a part of your normal duties;
18. Circumventing user authentication or security of any host, network, or account;
19. Interfering with, or denying service to, any user other than your host (for example, a denial of service attack);
20. Using any program/script/command, or sending messages of any kind, with the intent to interfere with, or disable, a user's terminal session, via any means, locally or via the Internet/intranet/extranet; and/or
21. Providing unauthorized information about, or lists of, Bernards Township Board of Education employees to parties outside Bernards Township Board of Education.

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- D. For security and network maintenance purposes, authorized individuals within Bernards Township Board of Education may monitor equipment, systems and network traffic at any time, per the Audit Policy.
- E. Bernards Township Board of Education reserves the right to audit networks and systems on a periodic basis to ensure compliance with the policy.

Standards for Use of Computer Networks Accessed Via Non-Board of Education Issued Devices

Any individual using the Bernards Township Board of Education's computer network from a device not issued by the Bernards Township Board of Education accepts that such usage is only permitted by agreeing to the following conditions. Users who do not agree to each of the following conditions are not permitted to use Bernards Township Board of Education's computer network from a device not issued by the Bernards Township Board of Education.

User's Obligations: All users agree to provide virus and firewall protection for any device(s), from which users will be accessing the computer network. Virus protection software must be updated with virus definitions not less than two weeks old.

User's Assumption of All Risks of Use: Users agree to and hereby assume all risks (including, but not limited to, the risks of damage caused by hackers, worms, Trojans or viruses) arising from, connected to or resulting from usage of this computer network.

User's Acknowledgments: All users acknowledge: 1) the use of this computer network may not be uninterrupted or error-free; 2) use of this computer network may expose you or your device(s) to risks such as hackers, worms, Trojans or viruses; 3) although the Bernards Township Board of Education makes great effort to keep the computer network safe and secure for users, Bernards Township Board of Education does not guarantee the security of this computer network; 4) unauthorized third parties may access your device(s) or files or otherwise monitor your use of this computer network; 5) the Bernards Township Board of Education's ability to provide this access the computer network without charge is based on the disclaimers and limitations of liability provided in the "Indemnification" and "Limitation of Liability" paragraphs below.

Limitation of Liability: Under no circumstances will the Bernards Township Board of Education or any of their administrators, officers, directors, employees, agents or affiliates be liable for any legal damages (whether based on tort, breach of contract or equitable theories) based on any claim of the user, or any of the user's heirs, assignees, appointees or successors-in-interest, and arising out of or as a result of the user's use of the computer network.

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Indemnification: All users agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Bernards Township Board of Education and each of their suppliers, licensors, officers, directors, employees, agents or affiliates from any claim, lawsuit, liability, loss, damage, cost, expense or attorney's fee arising out of or relating to any actions initiated or caused by users while using this computer network.

Internet Safety/Protection

The school district is in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and has installed technology protection measures for all computers in the school district, including computers in media centers/libraries, that block and/or filter visual depictions that are obscene as defined in section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code; child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code; are harmful; to minors including any pictures, images, graphic image file or other visual depiction that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way, with respect to what is suitable for minors, sexual acts or conduct; or taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

The school district will certify on an annual basis, that the schools, including media centers/libraries, in the district are in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and the school district enforces the requirements of this policy.

This Policy also establishes Internet safety policy and procedures in the district as required in the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act. Policy 2361 addresses access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web; the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online; unauthorized disclosures, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Notwithstanding blocking and/or filtering the visual depictions prohibited in the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Board shall determine other Internet material that is inappropriate for minors.

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Consent Requirement

No pupil shall be allowed to use the computer or computing system unless they shall have filed with the respective school office a consent form signed by the pupil and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated in Regulation #2361 and other appropriate discipline which includes but are not limited to:

1. Use of the network only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer privileges;
5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension from school;
7. Expulsion from school and/or
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-3

Federal Communications Commission: Children's Internet Protection Act

ADOPTED: August 28, 2006