

**BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Bloomfield, Connecticut**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION**

**No. 6141.321(a)**

**RE:   Student Use of the District's Computer Systems  
      and Internet Safety  
      Students**

**Approved:   October 6, 2015**

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Introduction

It is the district's goal to provide students with rich and ample opportunities to use technology for important purposes in schools just as individuals in workplaces, higher education and other real- life settings. The district's technology will enable educators and students to communicate, learn, share, collaborate and create, to think and solve problems, to manage their work, and to take ownership of their lives. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

The Board of Education and the Administration are pleased to offer students access to the district's computers and computer networks and the Internet (which will be referred to collectively as "computer systems".) We believe in the educational value of such computer systems and recognize their potential to support our curriculum by expanding resources available for staff and student use. We also believe that students need to be proficient users of information, media, and technology to succeed in a digital world. Therefore, the Bloomfield school district will use electronic resources as a powerful and compelling means for students to learn core subjects and applied skills in relevant and rigorous ways.

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.

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, and state and federal laws.

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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. As part of 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 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 oversight of Internet site access and of 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:

- a) Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- b) Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to computer systems;
- c) Damaging computers, computer files, computer systems or computer networks;
- d) 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;
- e) Using another person's password under any circumstances;
- f) Trespassing in or tampering with any other person's folders, work or files;
- g) Sending any message that breaches the district's confidentiality requirements, or the confidentiality of students;
- h) Using computer systems for any personal purpose, or in a manner that interferes with the district's educational programs;
- i) Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors, as defined below;
- j) Accessing or attempting to access web sites blocked by the district using anonymous proxies or any other method that circumvents district security.
- k) Transmitting or receiving e-mail communications or accessing information on the Internet for non-educational purposes.

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.

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Misuse of the computer systems, or violations of these policies, 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 system, 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.

**Internet Safety**

**Access to Inappropriate Material**

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

**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, sadomasochistic abuse, masturbation or sexual intercourse.

Child pornography – means 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 a) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexual 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.

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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.

**Inappropriate Network Usage**

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the district's computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

**Education, Supervision and Monitoring**

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the district staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of Director of Technology or designated representatives.

School staff will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the district's Internet access. The training provided will be designed to promote our commitment to:

- A. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the policy Regarding Student Use of The District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety, Bullying Behavior in School policy and Safe-School Climate plan;
- B. Student safety with regard to:
  - a. safety on the Internet;
  - b. appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking web sites, and in chat rooms; and
  - c. cyber bullying awareness and response.
- C. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA").

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Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the District's acceptable use policies.

Legal References

Children's Internet Protection Act (Public Law 106-554) Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-182b; 53a-183;

53a-250

Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. § § 2510 through 2520

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Pub. L. 107-110), to be codified at 20 U.S.C. § 6777

18 U.S.C. § 2256 (definition of child pornography) Millerv. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973) (definition of obscene) Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-193 (definition of obscene)