

## **6:235 Access to Electronic Networks**

### **Access to the Internet**

The global electronic community, commonly referred to as the “Information Superhighway” or the “Internet,” is a very valuable resource for education. The Internet, (including, but not limited to, internet web sites, pages, files, e-mail, on-line services, and bulletin board systems) provides access to a vast array of resources, which can be used to support the curriculum by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

Therefore, the Board’s goal is to include these Internet resources in the District’s instructional program, where appropriate, to increase learning and improve instruction. To this end, the Superintendent or his/her designee will develop an implementation plan for this policy, which will include administrative procedures for staff and student use of the Internet:

Internet use is a privilege, not a right, and therefore can be suspended or revoked. All use of the District’s connection to the Internet must be in support of education and/or research, be consistent with the educational objectives, policies, rules, and regulations of the Board, and be in compliance with and subject to District and building discipline codes.

Teachers may use the Internet throughout the curriculum. However, such Internet use must be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District, as well as with the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students. Also, the selection of materials, sites, services, bulletin board systems, etc., from the Internet must comply with the Board’s selection policy for instructional materials and library-media-center-materials.

Further, the Internet may be used in a variety of formats, including, but not limited to: e-mail; teacher-selected material in a prescriptive setting; and “live” Internet interaction, in which material is not preselected.

In order to make the best, most appropriate use of the Internet, each teacher must sign the District’s User Agreement for Access to Electronic Network & Equipment as a condition of using the District’s Internet connection. A teacher may not use a live connection with students nor authorize such connections until his/her *Agreement* is signed.

For purposes of this policy, individual Board members and all District 88 staff, employees and contractors having Internet access, or using the Internet, will be subject to the same rules of conduct, behavior and communications as teachers, will be required to abide by the terms contained herein, and will be required to sign a User Agreement for Access to Electronic Network & Equipment.

Students may not make a live Internet connection without specific authorization from a faculty member; in any event such live connections are subject to this policy. Such live Internet connections must have a faculty member present.

Parents/guardians who do not want their child to use the Internet at school, or participate in Internet activities, must contact the school office and complete a form notifying the District of the intent to opt-out of such use and activities. This opt-out statement will remain in effect as long as the child is enrolled at that school.

### **Access to the Internet – continued**

General rules for behavior and communications, as stated in the District's and schools' codes of conducts, apply when using the Internet, whether the electronic connection is made at school or remotely through school district network interfaces. Breaches of the code of conduct during use of the Internet will be treated as though they occurred "live", that is, within the school.

The failure of any student or teacher to follow the terms of this policy or its administrative procedures, rules, or regulations will result in the loss of Internet privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. However, due process will be given, commensurate with the seriousness of the offense. The District's User Agreement for Access to Electronic Network & Equipment contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol for the Internet.

Electronic communications and downloaded material may be monitored, read, edited, or traced by school officials.

### Filtering

In accordance with the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (Neighborhood Act), the District will monitor the online activities of minors (individuals under the age of 17), and operate a technology protection measure (filtering), with respect to any of its computers with Internet access, that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene (as that term is defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code), child pornography (as that term is defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code), or with respect to use of computers with Internet access by minors – harmful to minors.

For purposes of this policy, "harmful to minors" means 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 (as those terms are defined in Section 2246 of Title 18, United States Code), 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 to minors.

The District will enforce the operation of the technology protection measure during any use of those computers by minors (individuals under the age of 17) and adults. However, an administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the District, may disable the technology protection measure concerned, during use by an adult, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the District will ensure, through this policy and the administrative regulations related hereto:

- (a) that minors are not provided with access to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web. Determinations regarding what matter is inappropriate for minors will be made by the Board, using criteria it deems appropriate;
- (b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;

- (c) that minors are prevented from gaining unauthorized access, including so-called hacking, and other unlawful activities, while online;
- (d) that there is no unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
- (e) the use of appropriate measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors;

#### Internet Safety Curriculum

An age-appropriate curriculum for Internet safety shall be implemented once each school year to students in grades 9-12. The Board approved curriculum shall consist of topics identified in Illinois School Code such as, but not limited to, safe and responsible use of social networking websites, chat rooms, and electronic mail, risks of transmitting personal information on the Internet, and recognizing and reporting online harassment and cyber-bullying.

The District is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved via the Internet. Though the District does provide and operate a technology protection measure (filtering), with respect to any of its computers with Internet access, it does not guarantee that all objectionable material will be restricted. Furthermore, the District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

Users of School District 88 e-mail services are expressly required not to make defamatory statements and not to infringe or authorize any infringement of copyright or any other legal right by e-mail communications. Any such communication is contrary to District policy and outside the scope of the employment of the individual concerned. District 88 will not accept any liability with respect to such communication, and the employee responsible will be personally liable for any damages or other resulting liability. Employees who receive such an e-mail must notify their supervisor immediately. Adopted: June 15, 2009

Legal Ref.: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (P.L. 106-554); Children's Internet Protection Act (P.L. 106-554, Sec. 1701, *et seq.*); Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (P.L. 106-554, Sec. 1731, *et seq.*); Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6801, *et seq.*); Section 254); 66 Fed. Reg. 19394 (April 16, 2001).