

Instruction

SUBJECT: INTERNET SAFETY/INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING POLICY

The District will use technology protection measures (i.e., filtering or blocking of access to certain material on the Internet) on all District computers and other electronic devices with Internet access. Such technology protection measures apply to Internet access by both adults and minors with regard to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to the use of computers and other electronic devices with Internet Access by minors, considered harmful to such students. The District will provide for the education of students in the area of digital citizenship, including appropriate online behavior, safely interacting with other individuals, on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and the awareness of cyberbullying. Further, appropriate monitoring of online activities of minors, as determined by the building/program supervisor, will also be enforced.

While no filtering technology can guarantee that staff and students will be prevented from accessing all inappropriate locations, proper safety procedures, as deemed appropriate by the applicable administrator/program supervisor, will be provided in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

In addition to the use of technology protection measures, the monitoring of online activities and access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet *may* include, but shall not be limited to, the following guidelines:

- a) The presence of a supervising teacher and/or other appropriate District personnel when students are accessing the Internet;
- b) Monitoring usage logs in order to keep track of online activity as a measure to restrict access to materials harmful to minors;
- c) The dissemination of the District's Acceptable Use Policy and accompanying Regulations to parents and students in order to provide notice of the school's requirements, expectations, and student's obligations when accessing the Internet. Parental and/or student consent, as may be applicable, shall be required prior to authorization for student use of District computers and other electronic devices. In compliance with this Internet Safety Policy as well as the District's Acceptable Use Policy, unauthorized access (including so-called "hacking") and other unlawful activities by minors are prohibited by the District; and student violations of such policies may result in disciplinary action;
- d) Notification to minors regarding the prohibition as to unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding such students; and
- e) Educating of students regarding appropriate online behavior including interacting with other individuals online, including on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and regarding cyberbullying awareness and response.

The determination of what is "inappropriate" for minors shall be determined by the District and/or designated school official(s). It is acknowledged that the determination of such "inappropriate" material may vary depending upon the circumstances of the situation and the age of the students involved in online research.

The terms "minor," "child pornography," "harmful to minors," "obscene," "technology protection measure," "sexual act," and "sexual contact" will be as defined in accordance with CIPA and other applicable laws/regulations as may be appropriate and implemented pursuant to the District's educational mission.

(Continued)

Instruction

SUBJECT: INTERNET SAFETY/INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING POLICY (Cont'd.)

Under certain specified circumstances, the blocking or filtering technology measure(s) may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The power to disable can only be exercised by an administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the School District.

The School District shall provide certification, pursuant to the requirements of CIPA, to document the District's adoption and enforcement of its Internet Safety Policy, including the operation and enforcement of technology protection measures (i.e., blocking/filtering of access to certain material on the Internet) for all School District computers and other electronic devices with Internet access.

Internet Safety Instruction

In accordance with New York State Education Law, the School District may provide, to students in grades Pre-K through 12, instruction designed to promote the proper and safe use of the Internet. The Commissioner shall provide technical assistance to assist in the development of curricula for such course of study which shall be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and abilities of students at successive grade levels in order to provide awareness, skills, information and support to aid in the safe usage of the Internet.

Under the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, students will also be educated on appropriate interactions with other individuals through online electronic communications, including but not limited to social networking websites and chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response.

Access to Inappropriate Content/Material and Use of Personal Technology or Electronic Devices

Despite the existence of District policy, regulations and guidelines, it is impossible to completely prevent access to content or material that may be considered inappropriate for students. Students may have the ability to access such content or material from their home, other locations off school premises and/or with a student's own personal technology or electronic device on school grounds or at school events.

The District is not responsible for inappropriate content or material accessed via a student's own personal technology or electronic device or via an unfiltered Internet connection received through a student's own personal technology or electronic device.

47 USC Sections 254(h) and 254(l)
47 CFR Part 54
Education Law Section 814

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7370 -- Student Use of Computerized Information Resources (Acceptable Use Policy)
District Code of Conduct on School Property

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