

Computer Network

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop services linking computers within and between buildings in the District, and to provide access to the international computer network (Internet) for students, staff and, if requested, members of the Board of Education. All computer network implementation shall be in line with the Board policy on technology and the District's Strategic Plan.

Use of the computer network(s) as a part of any class or school assignment shall be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District. The District's general rules for behavior and communications shall apply when using any computer equipment.

Personal Accounts

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide personal accounts for students, staff, and, if requested, members of the Board, access to the District computer network and the Internet, including electronic mail and file server space for developing and publishing material on the world wide web or other networked computer media. Such access shall be provided in furtherance of the District's educational mission, to enhance student knowledge and familiarity with technology, and to facilitate communication, innovation, and sharing of resources. To ensure the integrity of the educational process and to guard the reputation of the District, student and staff expression in public electronic media provided by the school may be subject to review, comment, editing, and/or removal by school officials.

Personal accounts and all use of District computer resources are considered a privilege, not a right, and are subject to the District's rules and policies. Electronic communications and stored material may be monitored or read by school officials. Electronic mail in personal accounts will not generally be inspected by school officials without the consent of the sender or a recipient, except as required to investigate complaints, which allege a violation of the District's rules and policies, or to comply with State and/or Federal Law such as FOIA.

Student electronic mail and electronic storage space, which does not contain material made public by the student, shall be subject to the District's policy and rules on student records.

A fee may be charged by the District to defray the cost of personal accounts. However, if use of personal accounts is required for a core curricular class, no fees may be charged of a student for the duration of that class.

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Computer Network

Privacy

The School District may collect and store Personally Identifiable Information (PII). In the event PII is collected, all information shall be secured in accordance with Board policies 5180 - Unauthorized Release of Information and 8940 - Student Records.

System Integrity

The Superintendent shall designate person(s) trained in computer technology (“system administrators”) at the building and/or District level to implement the District's rules and regulations and to provide computer support for students, staff and Board members. The Superintendent in concert with the system administrators shall employ hardware and software security to ensure the integrity of the system and to prevent unauthorized access to District and school records.

Network Use

The Superintendent shall develop rules and procedures for computer and network use, and shall see to it that rules are published annually for students, parent(s)/ guardian(s), staff, and Board members. The rules/procedures shall also provide guidance to staff and students about making safe, appropriate and ethical use of the District's network(s), as well as inform both staff and students about disciplinary actions that will be taken if District technology and/or networks are abused in any way or used in an inappropriate, illegal, or unethical manner.

Further safeguards shall be established so that the District’s investment in both hardware and software achieves the benefits of technology and inhibits negative side effects. Accordingly, students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior including, but not limited to, using social media to interact with others online; interacting with other individuals in chat rooms or on blogs; and, recognizing what constitutes cyber bullying, understanding cyber bullying is a violation of District policy, and learning appropriate responses if they are victims of cyber bullying. (Cf. 5202 and 8260)

The District's computer and network use rules shall be consistent with the following requirements:

- Users may not use District equipment to perform or solicit the performance of any activity that is prohibited by law.
- Users may not use the system to transmit or publish information that violates or infringes upon the rights of any other person, or information that is abusive, obscene, or sexually offensive.

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Computer Network

- District computer equipment shall not be used for commercial purposes by any user, or for advertisement or solicitation without prior written approval from the Superintendent.
- Except with prior authorization from a system administrator or the owner of the record in question, users may not access or attempt to access the records or files of other users, or of the District, nor delete, alter, or otherwise interfere with the integrity of computer-based information or resources.
- Users may not use the electronic mail facility to send unsolicited, bulk, chain, harassing, anonymous, or other messages which are an annoyance to the recipient or which may cause a degradation of system performance.
- Users may not use the network facility to access or bring into the school environment material that is inconsistent with the educational goals of the District, including but not limited to material which is defamatory, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually explicit, threatening, racially offensive, illegal, or which aids or advocates illegal activity other than non-violent civil disobedience.

Social Media (Cf. 5202)

Social media shall be defined as internet-based applications (such as Facebook, My Space, Twitter, etc.) that turn communication into interactive dialogue between users. The Board authorizes the instructional and administrative staff use of social media. Staff will demonstrate good faith efforts to monitor and supervise student use of social media.

District Web Page(s)

Any and all Web pages representing the District shall be carried and posted only on the District's server and shall be designed and published in accordance with rules promulgated by the Superintendent.

Limiting Access

The administration may make use of technology, which attempts to block access by individual users to networked computers, data, or services that provide content, which, in the opinion of the administration, is not in keeping with the educational aims of the District pursuant to state statute. Complaints about content of networked information or access to blocked sites shall be handled in accord with the District's policy and procedures for complaints about library and instructional materials.

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Use of Computers in a School District Library

The Board, pursuant to state statute, requires when a school District library offers use of the Internet or a computer, computer program, computer network, or computer system to the public, that access to minors be restricted in the following manner:

Utilize a system or method that is designed to prevent a minor from viewing obscene matter or sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors. To accomplish this, a library may use passwords and/or filters that restrict Internet access for those less than 18 years of age.

The Superintendent will develop rules concerning library Internet access in compliance with state law.

The Superintendent shall review the Computer Network policy and report any changes, amendments, or revisions to the Board annually.

Approved: November 14, 2011
LEGAL REF: MCL 397.606