

**Instruction****Telecommunications/Internet: Acceptable Use Policy**

The Board of Education believes in the educational value of electronic communications and recognizes their potential to support the Board's educational program. Resource sharing and communication for both students and teachers have increased with access to telecommunications and to the Internet. It is imperative that members of the school community conduct themselves in a responsible manner consistent with federal and state law while utilizing the Internet and any other electronic information retrieval system.

**Guidelines for General Use**

With increased access to information from various sources via computers comes the availability of material that may not have any educational value in the context of the school setting. The Board recognizes the importance of the exercise of individual judgment in accessing information through the Internet and any other electronic information retrieval system for educational purposes. In the exercise of such judgment, however, the following guidelines should be

Followed:

1. Access to the Internet or to any other electronic information retrieval system is a privilege, not a right. Accordingly, such access is given only to those individuals who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner and agree to comply with Board policies and procedures.
2. All uses of the Internet or any electronic information retrieval service or any telecommunications network must be supportive of educational objectives and research and must be consistent with academic expectations.
3. Any electronic mail shall be used only by the authorized owner of the account. All account owners are ultimately responsible for activity under their account.
4. All electronic mail systems, the Internet and any electronic information retrieval systems are the sole properties of the Board and are provided solely for the purpose of carrying out the educational and operational needs of the Board.
5. Instant messaging and peer-to-peer traffic over the district system or on district equipment is prohibited.
6. Any use inconsistent with this purpose, including personal use is prohibited. Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private; the Board of Education reserves the right to monitor the use of such systems in order to insure compliance with these guidelines by, e.g., bypassing passwords.
7. Any use of the Board's computer systems, E-mail systems, Internet or other electronic informational retrieval systems for illegal or inappropriate purposes or for accessing material that is objectionable in any school environment, including vulgar or obscene materials, is prohibited.
8. Any use of these electronic systems for commercial purposes, financial gain, or solicitation is prohibited.
9. The transmission of any copyrighted or legally protected material over such electronic systems is prohibited.
10. The transmission of abusive, harassing, threatening, intimidating, obscene or vulgar material or language is prohibited. The user is expected to be polite and courteous while using the Board's electronic systems.
11. Any attempt to harm or destroy data of another user or engage in acts of vandalism will not be tolerated.
12. Violations of this policy may result in revocation of access to and privileges relating to the Internet or any electronic information retrieval systems. Violations of this policy by a student may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. In the case of any breach of this policy by an employee, such disciplinary action may include discharge.
13. The Superintendent of Schools will appoint one administrator to serve as the Board's "Internet Administrator", who will be responsible for implementing this policy, establishing procedures, and supervising access privileges.

## Active Restriction Measures

The Ansonia Board of Education, either through use of its own resources, or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technological means, to ensure that students are not accessing such depictions or any other material which is inappropriate for minors.

Internet filtering software or other technology-based protection systems may be disabled by a supervising teacher or school administrator, as necessary, for purposes of bona fide research or other educational projects being conducted by students age 18 and older.

The term “harmful to minors” is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 [h][7]), as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

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1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. 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;
3. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

#### Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-19(b)(11) Access to public records. Exempt records.  
10-15b Access of parent or guardians to student's records..  
10-209 Records not to be public.  
11-8a Retention, destruction and transfer of documents  
11-8b Transfer or disposal of public records. State Library Board to adopt regulations.  
46b-56 (e) Access to Records of Minors.  
Connecticut Public Records Administration Schedule V - Disposition of Education Records (Revised 1983).  
Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of PL 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g.).  
Dept. of Education. 34 CFR. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45 FR 30802) regs. implementing FERPA enacted as part of 438 of General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)-parent and student privacy and other rights with respect to educational records, as amended 11/21/96.  
Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000 (HR 4577, P.L.106-554)  
Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 254[h],[I])  
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F)  
Public Law 94-553, The Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. 101 et. seq.  
*Reno v. ACLU*, 521 U.S. 844 (1997)  
*Ginsberg v. New York*, 390 U.S. 629, at 642, n.10 (1968)  
*Board of Education v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 868 (1988)  
*Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 620, 267 (1988)

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**6141.321**  
**ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Ansonia, Connecticut**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERNET AND OTHER**  
**COMPUTER NETWORK ACCESS**

The purpose of providing Internet and other computer network access in this district is to promote the exchange of information and ideas with the global community. The following represents a guide to the acceptable use of the technology provided by this district. All network use must be consistent with the policies and goals of this school district. Inappropriate use of district technology will result in the loss of technology use, disciplinary action, and/or referral to legal authorities.

All Internet and other computer network users will be expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Be polite. Messages should not be abusive to others.
2. Take pride in communications. Check spelling and grammar.
3. Use appropriate language. Do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language, symbols, or pictures.
4. Protect password confidentiality. Passwords are not to be shared with others. Using another user's account or password or allowing such access by another may be permitted only with the approval of the supervising teacher or system administrator.
5. Do not reveal your personal address or telephone number or those of other persons. No student information protected by FERPA should be electronically transmitted or otherwise disseminated through the network.
6. Do not disguise the point of origin or transmission of electronic mail.
7. Do not send messages that contain false, malicious, or misleading information which maybe injurious to a person or a person's property.
8. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.
9. The district technology is not to be used for playing multi-user or other network intensive games, commercial ventures, Internet relay chat lines, or downloading excessively large files.
10. No charges for services, products, or information are to be incurred without appropriate permission.
11. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
12. Users shall respect the privacy of others and not read the mail or files of others without their permission. Copyright and licensing laws will not be intentionally violated.
13. Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, data of another user, Internet, or any other agencies or other networks which may be accessed. This includes, but is not limited to, the creation of computer viruses.
14. Report security problems to the supervising teacher or system administrator.
15. Violators of this policy shall hold the district, including its employees and agents, harmless against any and all causes of action, damages, or other liability resulting from the willful or negligent violation of this policy.

**ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Ansonia, Connecticut**

**Guidelines for Telecommunications Use at Home**

Exploring the rich resources available through the telecommunications of the Internet can be a wonderful educational experience for your child. However, there are a few risks for children who use online services. Teenagers are particularly at risk because they often use the computer unsupervised and because they are more likely than younger children to participate in online chats and discussions. The Internet is not governed by any entity; therefore, there are no limits or checks on the kind of information that is accessible to Internet users.

The best way to assure that your children are having positive online experiences is to stay in touch with what they are doing.

Open communication with your children and getting online yourself will help you to understand the benefits of these systems and alert you to potential problem areas. Consider the following guidelines:

- \* The computer used for online services should be in a public place. If the computer is in the child's bedroom, the door should be open when he/she is online.
- \* Develop a set of rules and consequences. Write them in terms of what you want to have happen, rather than the negative behavior you don't want to occur.
- \* Respect privacy. Do not open another user's mail.
- \* Discuss screen names. May your child use his/her real name or something else?
- \* Set reasonable time limits for use. Most services charge by the time used. Set a monthly budget for use.
- \* Use the parental control features if available.
- \* Determine if your child may purchase online services or goods.
- \* If your child receives a message that is suggestive, obscene, threatening or makes him/her feel uncomfortable, forward a copy of the message to the service provider and ask for assistance.

The following rules are suggested by the National Center for Missing and Exploited children.

**"My Rules for Online Safety"**

1. I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.
2. I will tell my parent right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
3. I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will make sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
4. I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
5. I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
6. I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.