

INTERNET USE & SAFETY POLICY/NETWORK ACCESS POLICY

GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of the Wantagh Union Free School District in Internet/Network Access is to improve learning and teaching through interpersonal communication, student and staff access to information, research, staff development, collaboration and dissemination of successful educational practices, methods, and materials. It is the District's responsibility to instruct students about network and Internet safety, their role as a "network citizen" and the code of ethics involved with this new global community.

The Internet Use & Safety Policy is available for review by parents or guardians on request, and parents or guardians should be familiar with it. The Internet Use & Safety Policy contains restrictions on accessing inappropriate and/or harmful material on the Internet through the District's computer network in order to protect users. In addition, the District will employ filtering technology and will monitor and attempt to properly channel on-line activities of students. However, there is a wide range of material available on the Internet that may not be in keeping with the particular views of the families or the students. The District recognizes that parents have primary responsibility for transmitting their particular set of values to their children and that the parents or guardians of minors are ultimately responsible for setting and conveying standards that their children should follow when using the Internet, media and information sources. Parents are also responsible for monitoring the students' use of the Internet and the District's network if students are using the District's computer network to access the Internet from home.

The District believes that the benefits to students of Internet access that result from the vast amount of information resources and opportunities for collaboration outweigh the disadvantages of such access. However, parents or guardians may believe otherwise and therefore, may specifically request that the District not allow their child to have Internet access on the District's computer network. Such request must be made in writing, signed and dated by the parent(s) or guardian and delivered to the student's building principal. Parents or guardians must make separate written requests for each child that will be denied Internet access by the District.

In such cases where Internet use is part of the curriculum of a course or program, students will be permitted to complete alternative projects approved by the student's teacher.

INTERNET USE & SAFETY

The use of the internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Wantagh Schools. Transmission of any material in violation of any United States or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening material or material protected by trade secret. The same standards of conduct which apply to any aspect of student behavior or job performance shall apply to the use of the district's technology resources. This policy shall apply to all adults and student users of the Internet via Wantagh Schools wide area network within school grounds and remote access into the network should the conduit for such access be provided and sanctioned by the district.

Filtering

To the greatest extent practicable, the District will block access for both minors and adults to visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, (3) harmful to minors. Access shall be blocked to such material that appears on the Internet or other forms of electronic communication.

Definitions

Obscenity shall be defined by section 1460 of title 18 of the United States Code. Child pornography shall be defined by section 2256 of title 18 of the United States Code. The District shall determine what it deems to be "harmful to minors" and use the filtering technology in accordance with that determination.

Filtering Technology

Access to the aforementioned material will be blocked by the use of Internet filtering and Internet access management technology. Such technology will be updated as necessary in order to ensure that protection is being provided to the greatest extent possible. Student access to the Internet shall be restricted to insure compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Access to the aforementioned material will be blocked to the greatest extent possible on all district computers with Internet access, not just those used by students. An administrator, supervisor, teacher or other person granted authority, may disable the technology protection measure involved in order to obtain access to restricted web sites for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The filtering technology shall also be applied in order to insure the safety of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, social networks, Web 2.0 tools, learning management systems, and other forms of direct electronic communications. The filtering technology will, to the greatest extent possible, protect against unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking" and other unlawful use of District computers by minors.

Additional Supervision

In order to further protect the safety of students in the District, no student may use a District computer with internet access unless a teacher, supervisor, administrator or other District employee with such authority is present to supervise such use. In the case of devices brought home, the district will employ filtering technology tools that extend outside the district walls, to ensure compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

NETWORK SERVICES

The network offers users, teacher-directed access within and/or between District buildings and the world via the Internet and the District's own network.

NETWORK ACCESS

As access becomes available, the following people are entitled to use the network:

- All employees and students of the Wantagh Union Free School District for school business.
- All Wantagh Union Free School District students when under direct supervision.

- Wantagh Union Free School District students will have access to District computers and/or its network unless his/her parent opts such student out of such computer use and/or network access, in accordance with the general policy and guidelines.
- Others working in K-12 public education who request use of the network. These requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and will be granted as needs and resources permit by the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

GENERAL POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Wantagh Union Free School District network facilities are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of the Wantagh Union Free School District. All users of the District's computer network and the internet must understand that access is a privilege, not a right, and that access entails responsibility. All users are required to demonstrate appropriate conduct on school computers and networks, just as they are required to adhere to the District's code of conduct and Dignity Act regulations when on school grounds or while involved in any school-related functions. Failure to adhere to this policy and its guidelines may result in disciplinary and/or legal action as well as suspension and/or revocation of computer access privileges.

GUIDELINE I:

Acceptable uses of the network are activities that support learning and teaching. Network users are encouraged to develop uses which meet their educational needs and which take advantage of the network's functions.

GUIDELINE II:

Unacceptable uses of the network include, but are not limited to:

- Using profanity, obscenity, or other language that may be offensive to another user.
- Re-posting (cutting and pasting, forwarding) personal communications without the author's prior consent.
- Attempting to deliberately degrade or disrupt the computer system will be viewed as criminal activity under applicable state and federal law.
- Uploading/Downloading, storing or printing files or messages that are profane, obscene, or that use language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- Spreading computer viruses deliberately.
- Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts.
- Using the network for financial or commercial gain.
- Vandalizing the data of another user such as copying or downloading text from a chat Room, social network, or other online conversation.
- Creating, running or installing programs. Only the Director of Information Systems and Instructional Technology may install or authorize the installation of software into a network or a computer attached to the network.
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
- Invading the privacy of individuals such as entering personal information about another individual. This applies to all forms of personal information such as text, graphics, video clips, animations and audio files.
- Using an account owned by another user.

- Modifying, erasing or otherwise changing or tampering with any of the network's programs, including but not limited to passwords, directories, security features or other parameters.
- Posting anonymous messages.
- Refraining from engaging in activities that may result in the District incurring any charges or damages.

GUIDELINE III:

Sponsors (teachers, supervisors, administrators) are responsible for teaching proper techniques and standards for participation, for guiding access to appropriate sections of the network and Internet, and for assuring that users understand that if they misuse the network they may lose their access privilege and/or other sanctions. Particular concerns include safety on the network, issues of privacy, copyright infringement, e-mail and social network etiquette, computer viruses.

The Wantagh School District or designated representatives will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the Wantagh School District Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote the District's commitment to:

- a. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services
- b. Student safety with regard to:
 - safety on the Internet;
 - appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and
 - cyberbullying awareness and response.
- c. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA").

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.

- Users will be allowed to produce materials for electronic publication on the Internet. Sponsors of user(s) will monitor and approve these materials to ensure compliance with content standards. The content of materials is constrained by the following restrictions:
 - > All work to be posted on the Internet must be approved by the Sponsor Teacher, Supervisor or Administrator.
 - > No personal information about a student will be allowed. This includes full name, home telephone number and address as well as information regarding the specific location of any student at any given time.
 - > All student work must be signed with the student's first name only or, when appropriate, first name and teacher initials, provided the student's parent(s) has not opted him/her out of such disclosures of student directory information.
 - > Individuals in pictures, movies or sound recordings may be identified ~~only~~ by a student's first name only, provided the student's parent(s) has not opted him/her out of such disclosures of student directory information. Absolutely no last names may appear in reference to individuals.

- > A teacher, supervisor or administrator must approve any photographs to be exchanged through electronic means.
- > No text, image, movie or sound that contains pornography, profanity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others will be allowed.

GUIDELINE IV:

The person in whose name an account is issued is responsible at all times for its proper use. Faculty and staff with individual accounts will be required to change their network passwords according to a schedule determined by the Director of Information Systems and Instructional Technology.

GUIDELINE V:

Users should understand that there is no expectation of privacy in any email, any Internet browsing session, or any other use of the District computers.

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