

## **10.2.1 ACCEPTABLE USE OF NETWORKED INFORMATION RESOURCES 10.2.1 AND INTERNET SAFETY FOR STUDENTS**

Telecommunications and new technologies are shifting the ways in which information is accessed, communicated and transferred by members of society. The North Warren Board of Education recognizes that those changes may alter instruction and student learning. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. The Board supports access by students to such information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources.

In the past, instructional and library media materials could easily be screened prior to use by committees of educators and community members. Telecommunications, electronic information sources, and networked services open classrooms to a broader array of resources which can not always be screened for use by students. Filtering software, in use on all computers with access to the Internet, is designed to block access to visual depictions that are obscene, contain child pornography, or are harmful to minors. Educational staff will, to the best of their ability, monitor minors' use of the Internet in school and take reasonable measures to prevent access by minors to inappropriate material. Students encountering information or messages they deem dangerous or inappropriate on the web or when using electronic mail or direct communications should immediately back out and notify their teacher or other adult staff.

The network is provided for students to conduct research, complete assignments, and communicate with others. Communications on the network are public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply: students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Students will receive age appropriate instruction throughout the year in appropriate behavior while online including netiquette, safety, and privacy in social networks, chat rooms, and web 2.0 environments. Instruction and procedures for avoiding cyber-bullying and response to incidents of cyber-bullying or harassment will be addressed in accordance with the school Code of Conduct (reference 7.3.1).

Network resources, including, but not limited to, email and file storage space, are considered to be similar to a school locker in that the contents are subject to review. Personal information such as complete names, addresses, telephone numbers and identifiable photos should remain confidential when communicating on the system. No user may disclose, use, or disseminate personal identification information regarding minors without authorization.

No use of the system shall serve to disrupt the use of the system by others. System components including hardware or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way. Malicious use of the system to harass other users or gain unauthorized access to any entity on the system and/or damage the components of an entity on the network is

**10.2.1 ACCEPTABLE USE OF NETWORKED INFORMATION RESOURCES 10.2.1  
AND INTERNET SAFETY FOR STUDENTS (continued)**

prohibited. Users are responsible for the appropriateness of the material they transmit over the system. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, or other antisocial behaviors are expressly prohibited.

Access to telecommunications will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and electronic resources while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefits to students from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. Use of the network resources must be in support of educational goals and requires agreement by users to standards of acceptable behavior and communication. Independent student use of telecommunications and electronic information resources will be permitted upon submission of agreement forms by parents of minor students and by students themselves. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the North Warren Central School District supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow independent access.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish appropriate procedures for governing the use of the district's networked resources and for reviewing and evaluating its effect on instruction and student achievement. Failure to comply with district policy and procedures will result in disciplinary action.

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