

Section: Operations

Title: Acceptable Use of Internet

Saucon Valley School District

Adopted: August 18, 1997

Revised:

**SAUCON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET**

Purpose

The Board supports and encourages the use of technology to aid in educational and support processes of the District. The Board recognizes the vast and unique resources that Internet access offers to both students and teachers. The Board has consistently encouraged the use of Internet technology to aid in and promote the overall educational experience. The Board further recognizes that the Internet allows for access to virtually unlimited information as well as the ability to communicate with individuals and institutions worldwide.

The Board also recognizes the potential for misuse of the various technology resources supplied to students, faculty and staff. Nevertheless, it is the belief of the Board that the value of technology in the educational and support processes outweighs the potential risk of misuse. The Board is, however, committed to a policy, which seeks to discourage, minimize and avoid any misuse by students, faculty and staff.

Authority

Use of technology resources by students, faculty and staff shall be considered a privilege, which may be denied or limited where violation of this policy occurs.

The District reserves the right to control, monitor, log and restrict in size or content all network use and space available on District work stations or servers.

The District reserves the right to log network use, Internet activity, and fileserver space. In addition, the District will periodically review student and staff files to maintain system integrity and insure that students and staff are using the system only for appropriate uses.

It is the policy of the District to protect technology users from harassment, unwanted and improper communication and violations of their privacy. The District shall not be responsible for unauthorized charges or fees resulting from inappropriate use of, or access to, the Internet or any other technology resource.

Information available to students and staff through various technology resources does not imply endorsement of the content of that information by the District, nor does the District guarantee the accuracy of that information. The District shall not be responsible for information which is lost, damaged or unavailable when using technology resources.

Filtering

All computers with Internet access shall be equipped with filtering software.

The Children's Internet Protection Act requires that filtering be on all computers with Internet access regardless of whether they are used by students or staff. In an effort to block and filter inappropriate material that may otherwise be accessible via the Internet, the Saucon Valley School District entered in to an agreement with Bluecoat, an Internet Filtering provider, to offer Internet Filtering Service to those who utilize the Saucon Valley School District's Internet connection. According to the provider, the filtering software is fully compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

In keeping with the above guideline of the Children's Internet Protection Act, the filtering service may be disabled on computers used by the network administrator, an administrator, or a teacher for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The filtering service may not be disabled by students or other minors for any reason.

Responsibilities

Students, faculty, staff and other users of the Internet or other technology resources provided by the Saucon Valley School District shall act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner in accordance with this policy, the accepted rules of network and Internet etiquette as well as state and federal laws. The guidelines set forth below shall be followed by students, faculty, staff and any other technology user:

- I. All users are prohibited from using the Internet, e-mail or any technology resource;
 1. for commercial, private, advertisement, or for-profit purposes;
 2. for lobbying or political purposes;
 3. for any illegal purpose;
 4. for the dissemination of hate mail, discriminatory remarks and offensive or inflammatory communications;
 5. for the unauthorized or illegal installation, distribution or a reproduction of copyrighted materials;
 6. for gaining access to obscene or pornographic material of any kind;
 7. for gaining access to material that is harmful to students and minors or which has been deemed inappropriate for students and minors by other Board policies of the Saucon Valley School District;
 8. for transmitting inappropriate language or profanity;

9. for transmitting material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients of said material;
 10. for obtaining or modifying files, passwords, or data belonging to other users;
 11. for impersonating another user, anonymity and pseudonyms
 12. for loading or using unauthorized programs, files, games or electronic media;
 13. for disrupting the work of other users;
 14. for the destruction, modification, abuse, or unauthorized access to network hardware, software, or data;
 15. for the quoting of personal communications or works in a public forum without the prior consent of the author;
 16. for use of network facilities for fraudulent copying, communications, or modification of materials in violation of copyright laws;
 17. for gaining access to sexually oriented chat rooms, e-mail exchanges or any other information of a sexually oriented, obscene, pornographic or extremely violent nature;
 18. for disabling or circumventing or attempting to disable or circumvent Internet filtering;
- II. Users shall not reveal their passwords to any other individual.
- III. Users shall not use a computer which has been logged on under another person's name.

Guidelines

Network accounts will be used only by the authorized owner of the account for its authorized purpose. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property and shall not be disclosed. Network users shall respect the privacy of other users on the system.

Laptop Computer Service

The policy setting forth the financial responsibility for loss, destruction or damages to laptop computers shall be as follows:

- a. In all cases of destruction or damage to a laptop computer, the building administrator shall investigate and decide whether the destruction or damage resulted from intentional or malicious conduct. The building administrator's decision in this regard shall be final.
- b. Parents and guardians shall be responsible for the entire cost of the repair or replacement resulting from any destruction or damage of a laptop, whether intentional, malicious or accidental.
- c. Parents and guardians shall be responsible for the entire cost where the laptop computer is lost or stolen.
- d. The Technology Department of the Saucon Valley School District will complete repairs or have them completed in the most cost effective manner, and will charge for labor and replacement parts.
- e. Parents and guardians are advised to determine whether their homeowner or renter's coverage provides insurance policy for destruction or damage to a school laptop computer.

Consequences for Violation of this Policy

Violators of this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the provisions of the existing policy for student discipline. The following may be imposed:

- a. The user shall be responsible to make full restitution for any damage (including all labor costs for repair or replacement) to equipment, software and any other part of the network resulting from known improper use or deliberate willful acts.
- b. Any acts which may violate state or federal laws including, but not limited to, copyright violations, theft and destruction of property shall be reported to the appropriate authorities for possible prosecution.
- c. The user may lose access privileges temporarily or on a permanent basis.

Staff or employees violating this policy may be disciplined in accordance with the Public School Code and other applicable laws.