

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY – STUDENTS

POLICY:

It is the policy of the St. Johnsbury School District to use electronic resources and the Internet to support and enrich the curriculum, taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students. The board recognizes the need to minimize the potential risk of exposure to inappropriate materials by students and provide instruction about privacy rights, intellectual property, and copyright infringement. Therefore, the use of all such resources shall be consistent with related district adopted policies and administrative procedures. The school district has the right to place restrictions on the materials students access or post through the system. Access to electronic resources and the Internet shall be available to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner, and they will be held liable for any misuse of those resources.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred by members of society, those changes may also enhance instruction and student learning. The board supports access to rich information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze, evaluate, and present such resources to students.

In the past, instructional and library media materials could usually be screened—prior to use—by committees of educators and community members and evaluated based on selection criteria. Telecommunications will open classrooms to electronic resources, which have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages. The board believes that the benefits to students from access to information resources and opportunities for collaboration far exceed the disadvantages. Consequently, educators shall collaborate with parents and guardians of minors to articulate and disseminate the standards that children will follow when using electronic resources and the Internet. The district will provide Internet filtering that previews Internet traffic coming through our computer system.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

Students may access the school district's electronic resources for educational purposes only. Activities that are acceptable include classroom activities, career development, and curriculum driven research. The school's electronic resources and access to the Internet shall not be used for commercial or entertainment purposes, as a public access service, or a public forum. Students are expected to follow the rules of personal conduct outlined in the student handbook, as well as abide by state and federal laws in the use of the district's electronic resources and the Internet.

Responsible student users of district technology resources **may not:**

- interfere with the normal and proper operation of technology resources or the Internet;
- adversely affect the ability of others to use our equipment or services;

- download files without prior authorization, or change computer files that do not belong to the user;
- conduct themselves in ways that are harmful or deliberately offensive to others;
- use personal e-mail accounts.

In addition, students may be allowed to access the school district's electronic resources for limited personal use. Limited personal use of the district's electronic resources shall be permitted if the use:

- imposes no tangible cost to the district;
- does not unduly burden the district's electronic resources;
- occurs during non-instructional time and does not impede other students' access to electronic resources;
- has no adverse effect on students' academic performance.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:

The board authorizes the superintendent to prepare appropriate procedures for implementing this policy and for reviewing and evaluating its effect on instruction and student achievement. Procedures for determining the consequences for violation of this policy are outlined in the administrative procedures that accompany this policy and the Acceptable Use Contract that all students and parents must sign before receiving access to technology resources and the Internet.

Due process procedures shall be followed in all matters pertaining to violations or perceived violations of this policy.

Legal References:

Federal Copyright Law
Federal Child Pornography Law
Federal Internet Virus Law
47 U.S.C. Section 230 Computer Decency Act
Children's Online Privacy Act
Electronic Communications Privacy Act

DATE WARNED: JULY 6, 2001

DATE APPROVED: JULY 16, 2001