

Policy

No. 231 (2361)

**Board of Education
Nutley**

PROGRAM

Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources

Purpose

The Internet is a global computer network that offers a wealth of resources. Students can use the Internet to locate material to meet their educational needs, to ask questions, to consult with experts, and to connect to many of the world's best museums, libraries, and global news services. As information on the Internet appears, disappears, and changes, it is not possible to predict or control what students may locate or use. They might encounter information that is controversial and inappropriate.

The school staff does not permit nor condone the use of inappropriate material in school, regardless of format. Parents and guardians are, therefore, encouraged to discuss the use of the Internet as an information source with their child.

To ensure that students will benefit from the school's Internet resources, all users are expected to adhere to the following guidelines.

Permitted Activities and Uses

The district's computers and networks exist to support its curricular objectives. All uses consonant with these objectives are permitted.

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DATED
DECEMBER 21, 1998

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Prohibited Activities and Uses

All of the district's existing regulations on conduct and behavior are deemed applicable in the context of computer and network use. Any use that violates any regulation is expressly prohibited. Moreover, prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Revealing personal information
- Invading someone's privacy
- Using anyone else's user name and password
- Viewing, downloading, or printing any materials that are obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, or otherwise inappropriate
- Using inappropriate language
- Sending abusive or anonymous messages
- Utilizing the Network in a way that disrupts or hampers its use by others.
- Violating any local, state, or Federal law or any international accords or treaties to which the U.S. is a party.
- Compromising the security of the district's computers or network, or the security of other institutions' computing resources accessible over the network.
- Infringing copyright, software licensing rights and all other state and federal laws governing intellectual property.
- Causing an event or outage on the network that results in a denial of service to others.
- Destroying or damaging computer hardware, software, or data.
- Being threatening to others

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In addition, users of the district's systems and networks shall not use district-computing resources for:

- Commercial activities.
- Promoting any unauthorized business, political or religious activity.
- Personal advertising.

"Acknowledgement, Consent and Waiver" Form Required

Prior to receiving an account allowing Internet access, each user of the district's network (including, but not limited to students, teachers, and other staff) must read a copy of the district's administrative regulations on Internet use. In the case of students, a parent or guardian must also read the indicated materials and sign and return the district's "Acknowledgement, Consent, and Waiver" form as developed by the Superintendent on the student's behalf. Such form shall include, at a minimum: (1) an acknowledgement of the district's regulations governing its networks and computer systems; (2) acknowledgement that a user has no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to messages sent or data stored online; and (3) an acknowledgement and acceptance of the risks.

Revocation of Internet Access and other Penalties

The district's regulations on computer and Internet usage promulgated hereunder are another part of the district's regulations on student conduct and, as such, as subject to the same mechanisms of discipline and punishment.

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Disclaimer

Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The Board has taken all available precautions to restrict access to inappropriate materials, however, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover inappropriate information. Nutley firmly believes that the valuable information available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with Nutley's educational goals.