

POLICY

SOUTH HUNTERDON REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER NETWORK/COMPUTERS AND RESOURCES

2361 Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources (M)

The South Hunterdon Regional Board of Education recognizes that access to telecommunications and other technologies allows pupils to explore databases, libraries, Internet sites, bulletin boards, and other useful sources of information and to exchange information with individuals throughout the world. The Board supports access by pupils to such information sources but reserves the right to limit in-school use to materials appropriate to educational purposes. The Board directs the Superintendent to provide teaching staff members with training in skills used to analyze and evaluate such resources as appropriate for educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes that technology allows pupils to access information sources that have not been pre-screened by educators using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer networks and declares unethical, unacceptable, or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privileges, and/or instituting legal action.

The Board provides access to computer networks/computers for educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate pupil access to computer networks/computers at any time, for any reason. School district personnel will monitor networks and online activity to maintain the integrity of the networks, ensure their proper use, and ensure compliance with Federal and State laws that regulate Internet safety.

Standards for Use of Computer Networks

Any individual engaging in the following actions when using district-owned or privately owned using computer networks/computers shall be subject to discipline or legal action:

- A. Using technology devices for illegal, inappropriate, or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities that violate Federal, State, or local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the networks. Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.
- B. Using technology devices to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.



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- C. Using technology devices in a manner that is outside the district's acceptable-use guidelines, that is disruptive or harmful to self or others, or that is disruptive or harmful to district networks, data, or equipment.

The Board directs the Superintendent to draft regulations that are in keeping with these standards for the use of computer technology in school (see Board Regulation 2361).

Internet Safety Protection

As a condition for receipt of certain Federal funding, the school district shall be in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and has installed technology protection measures for all computers in the school district, including computers in media centers/libraries. The technology protection measures must block and/or filter material and visual depictions that are obscene as defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code; child pornography, as defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code; visual depictions that are harmful to minors including any pictures, images, graphic image files, or other material or other visual depiction that, taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or visual images and information that that depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way, with respect to what is suitable for minors, sexual acts or conduct, or that taken as a whole, lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

This policy also authorizes the establishment of Internet safety policy and procedures in the district as required in the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act. Such policy and procedures shall address access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web; the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online; unauthorized disclosures, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Notwithstanding blocking and/or filtering the material and visual depictions prohibited in the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, the Board shall determine other Internet material that is inappropriate for minors.

In accordance with the provisions of the Children's Internet Protection Act, the



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Superintendent or his/her designee will develop and ensure education is provided to every pupil regarding appropriate online behavior, including pupils interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and/or chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

The Board will provide reasonable public notice and will hold one annual public hearing during a regular monthly Board meeting or during a designated special Board meeting to address and receive public community input on the Internet safety Policy and Regulation 2361. Any changes in Policy and Regulation 2361 since the previous year's annual public hearing will also be discussed at a meeting following the annual public hearing.

At this meeting, the school district will also certify on an annual basis that the schools, including media centers/libraries in the district, are in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act and the school district enforces the requirements of these Acts and this Policy.

Consent Requirement

No pupil shall be allowed to use district computer network(s)/computers, or to access the Internet using privately owned or other devices, unless they have filed with the Principal or his/her designee a consent form signed by the pupil and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated in Regulation 2361 and other appropriate discipline, which includes but are not limited to:

1. Use of the network only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer privileges;
5. Revocation of computer privileges;



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6. Suspension from school;
7. Expulsion from school; and/or
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-3

Federal Communications Commission: Children's Internet Protection Act, Neighborhood
Children's Internet Protection Act

See also: Policy 2363, Regulation 2361

Adopted: 29 April 2004
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