

Castleton-Hubbardton Union School District

STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

It is the policy of the Castleton–Hubbardton Union School District to use Electronic Resources including access to the Internet to support and enrich the curriculum, taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of the students.

This policy has been developed and approved in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act. The policy represents the District's good-faith efforts to promote the safe, ethical, responsible, and legal use of District Electronic Resources. This policy is designed to support the effective use of these Resources for education purposes, protect students against potential dangers, and ensure accountability. Therefore, the use of all such Electronic Resources shall be consistent with this policy and other related District adopted policies and procedures.

Access to District Electronic Resources shall be available to students who act in a considerate and responsible manner and abide by the requirements of this policy. Violation of this policy and accompanying procedures may result in school disciplinary action up to and including expulsion or referral to local, state or federal law enforcement officials. Students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be held accountable for any misuse or damage of the District's electronic equipment or Resources. Any unauthorized access to information that results in a monetary charge to the District will be billed to the user.

General Information

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies expand the ways that information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of society; these improvements may also enhance instruction and student learning. The Board supports appropriate access to expanded information resources by students. The Board believes that the benefit to students from access to electronic information resources and opportunities for collaboration far exceed the potential disadvantages. Consequently, the District shall research, develop, and articulate in age appropriate language standards and expectations that students shall follow when using Electronic Resources.

Administrative Responsibilities

The Building Administrator, or his/her designee, will coordinate and oversee the Electronic Resources. The Building Administrator, or his/her designee, will develop District-level procedures necessary to implement this policy. Those procedures will include ensuring that teachers received proper training and students receive adequate supervision while using the system, overseeing the user agreement process. The building administrator, or his/her designee, will be responsible for implementing these procedures, including internet safety instruction at a building level.

Staff Responsibilities

Student use of the Electronic Resources will be supervised by staffing in a manner that is appropriate to the age of the students and circumstances regarding the safe, ethical, legal and responsible use. The building administrator, or his/her designee, will develop and disseminate staff supervision guidelines for their respective schools.

Student Expectations

Students may access Electronic Resources for educational purposes only. The term "educational purpose" includes use of the system for classroom activities, which may involve e-mail communication, career development, and curriculum driven research. The District's Electronic

Resources shall not be used for commercial or entertainment purposes, or as a public access service or public forum.

Student use of the District's Electronic Resources will be governed by this policy and procedures as well as other related District policies and procedures, including but not limited to The Student Discipline/Anti-bullying (5114) and Harassment of Students (4300) policies.

Students have no right or expectation of privacy regarding anything created, sent or received on the District computer system including e-mail, sites accessed on the Internet or WWW, or any other use of computer equipment. The District may monitor any and all computer transactions and communications in order to evaluate the use of the District's computer system and to ensure compliance with this policy. All computer communications are subject to public disclosure laws.

Students must comply with all software licenses, copyrights, and other state and federal laws governing intellectual property and electronic access, including but not limited to the Child Internet Protection Act, Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Parental Notification and Responsibility

Each school will provide an annual written notice to the parents/guardians informing them about student use of District Electronic Resources, the policies governing their use, and the limitation of liability of the District. If the parent/guardian does not want their child(ren) to have access to District Electronic Resources including the Internet, they have the right to request the termination of their child(ren) access to Electronic Resources and the Internet at any time **by written notice to the Building Administrator**.

There is a wide range of material available through electronic resources, some of which may not be consistent with the values of the families of particular students. It is not possible for the District to monitor and enforce a wide range of social values in student use of Electronic Resources. Further, the District recognizes that parents/guardians bear primary responsibility for transmitting their particular family values to their children. The notice provided to parents/guardians will encourage them to specify to their child(ren) what material is and is not acceptable to access through the District Electronic Resources.

Supervision, Monitoring and Retention of Records

The District will use federally required filtering/blocking technology (Technology Protection Measure) and monitor use of the Internet. The District will monitor use of the Internet through several processes, **including employee supervision, and** regular, ongoing analysis of reports provided by the "Technology Protection Measure" (TPM) product (if applicable) and a review of web logs.

Routine maintenance and monitoring of the system may lead to discovery that the user has or is violating this policy and/or related policies, or the law. An appropriate investigation will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that a user has violated any District policies or the law the nature of the investigation will be reasonable and in the context of the nature of the alleged violation.

Limitation/Disclaimer of Liability

The District shall not be liable for students' unacceptable use or violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, user mistakes or negligence, and costs incurred by users. The District shall not be responsible for ensuring the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any information found on the Internet.

The District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the District system will be error-free or without defect. The District shall not be responsible for any damage experienced, including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District shall not be held responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through or stored on the system, or for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system.

Free Speech, Portals, Selection of Materials

Efforts to protect students from access to potentially harmful or inappropriate material and to direct students to high-quality educational materials shall not be implemented in such a manner as to restrict student access to information and ideas based on viewpoint discrimination.

The District may restrict student speech for valid educational reasons. The District will not restrict student speech on the basis of a viewpoint discrimination.

Safety and Security of Students When Using Direct Electronic Communication

The District may provide e-mail access for students but limits the use to educational purposes only. Students may only use real-time electronic communication, such as chat or instant messaging, wikis or Blogs for specifically organized educational activities. Students will not post personal contact information about themselves or other people and agree to follow communication safety requirements outlined in procedures when using electronic communications.

Protection of Student Confidentiality and Privacy

All contracts with third party providers of electronic services for the District will be reviewed by the District to ensure compliance with the Child Internet Protection Act, Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act and federal copyright laws.

To ensure that student confidentiality and privacy is protected, any use of a third party internet site (e.g., wiki, blog) for educational purposes with students or using student information must be approved by the Building Administrator or designee prior to use.

Teachers will ensure the protection of student personal information when *using any* third-party site or system. Teachers *who ask* students to establish an individual account on *an approved* third party site or system *may do so* only after receiving a Permission Form *specific to the site* signed by the parent/guardian.

The District may not enter into any agreement with a third party supplier of Internet-related services if the third party service provider intends to collect, analyze, and/or sell individual or anonymous student use data for the purpose of commercial advertising and marketing research activities. The collection and analysis of student use data strictly for the purpose of educational evaluation is acceptable, provided that student confidentiality standards are maintained.

Illegal, Unauthorized, and Inappropriate Activities

All student users of the District Electronic Resources will receive instruction regarding the safe, ethical, legal, and responsible use of the Electronic Resources and the Internet. The District will establish procedures that address the prevention of actions that are illegal, unauthorized, inappropriate, and/or that could damage the District's Electronic Resources.

Students may not access materials for any purpose that the District deems to be potentially harmful, inappropriate, illegal, and non-educational. This includes material that is obscene, child pornography or anything that the District considers harmful to minors.

Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

Users will not plagiarize works that they find on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were original to the user.

Users will respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when an individual inappropriately reproduces a work that is protected by a copyright.

Due Process

In the event there is an allegation that a student has violated this policy, the *Student Discipline /Anti-Bullying Policy (5114)* shall apply, including all rights to due process.

The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through the District ElectronicNetwork.

Castleton Hubbardton School District

Date Warned: September 10, 2009

Date Approved: October 7, 2009

Legal References:

47 U.S.C. 254(h)(B) and (1) - The Children's Internet/Online Protection Act of 1998, as amended;
17 U.S.C. §1- et seq. - The Copy Rights Acts of 1909 and 1976, as amended;
18 U.S.C. §2510 et seq. - Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986,as amended;
18 U.S.C. §2251 - Federal Child Pornography Law; 47 U.S.C. § 230 et seq.- The Communications Decency Act except for (47 U.S.C. 223(a)(1)(B)(ii) and 223(d) that were found unconstitutional by US Supreme Court)
13 V.S.A. §2801 et seq. - Obscenity, Minors; 15 V.S.A. §901 Parents Liability for Damages, as amended; 16 V.S.A. § 563(1); 565 Harassment and Hazing Prevention Policies

Cross References:

Student Discipline/ Anit-Bullying (5114)
Harassment of Students (4300)