

The Internet, a global computer network, has vast potential to support curriculum and student learning. The Board of Education believes the Internet should be used in schools as a learning resource to educate and to inform.

The Internet offers an opportunity for students to:

1. Participate in distance learning activities
2. Ask questions of and consult with experts
3. Communicate with other students and individuals
4. Locate material to meet their educational and personal information needs

Internet activities:

1. Require students to think critically, analyze information and write clearly
2. Instill problem-solving skills
3. Hone computer and research skills that employers demand
4. Encourage an attitude of lifelong learning

Because of these educational benefits, the Board believes the educational information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material not consistent with the education goals of the District. Opportunities should be made available on a regular basis for parents to observe student use of the Internet in the schools.

The Internet is a fluid environment in which information available to students is constantly changing. The Board acknowledges that it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate. The electronic information available to students does not imply endorsement by the District of the content, nor does the district make any guarantee as to the accuracy of information received on the Internet.

The district will make every effort to see that this educational resource is used responsibly by students. Administrators, teachers and staff have a professional responsibility to work together to help students develop the intellectual skills needed to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and to evaluate and use information to meet their educational goals.

The Board directs the superintendent to develop procedures for student exploration and use of electronic information resources. Such procedures should address issues of privacy, ethical use of information, illegal and/or unauthorized uses of the networks and conditions of usage.

Use of this education resource demands personal responsibility and an understanding of the acceptable use procedures for the Internet. Student use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using the Internet. Failure to follow the acceptable use procedures will result in the loss of the privilege to use this educational tool.

LEGAL REF: 47 U.S.C. 201 et seq. (Communications Decency Act of 1995)

ADOPTED: August 14, 1996

REVISED: January 2007