

## **Instruction**

### **Acceptable use in School of the Internet, Other Networks and Information and Communication Technologies**

The Internet, electronic communications (e-mail, chat rooms, blogs, instant messaging, pod casts, websites and other forms of electronic communication) and Electronic Communication Devices (ECDs) have vast potential to support curriculum and student learning. The board of education believes they should be used in school as learning resources in acquiring and using information, developing student literacy and providing on-going professional staff development activities.

The Internet is a “network of networks” which is used by many organizations including schools, government and businesses. It should be viewed as an educational tool similar to books, CD-ROMS, videos, periodicals, digital media and other information sources. Because it is impossible to predict or control what information might be accessed, it is the responsibility of students and staff to adhere to this Acceptable Use Policy.

The Easton School District requires responsible and ethical behavior on the part of all Internet users. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in restriction of access to the Internet and/or disciplinary actions.

Responsible use of the Internet, ECDs and other networks includes, but is not limited to:

- research
- instructional activities
- electronic mail
- collaborative learning to solve problems and accomplish appropriate educational goals
- innovation, flexibility and adaptability in thinking patterns, work habits and working/learning conditions

Because technology and ways of using technology are constantly evolving, every unacceptable use of district computers and computer systems cannot be specifically described in the policy. Therefore, examples of unacceptable uses include but are not limited to the following:

- any illegal activity
- using electronic communications to harass and/or intimidate others
- using the Internet for monetary gain
- vandalism of hardware or software
- using inappropriate or abusive language or behavior
- unauthorized access
- misusing and abusing passwords
- violating copyright law or engaging in plagiarism
- pornography
- private and commercial uses

## **Acceptable use in School of the Internet, Other Networks and Information and Communication Technologies (continued)**

- personal political activity
- downloading, installing or using software without authorization
- revealing personal identifiable information about oneself and others. Personal identifiable information includes but is not limited to names, photographs, family members' names, personal identifiers such as social security numbers, student ID numbers and information about characteristics making it easy to trace a student's identity.

### **District Rights**

The Easton School District reserves the right to:

- Deem what is appropriate use and determine whether specific uses of the network are consistent with this acceptable use policy.
- Monitor all activity on the parallel public wireless Easton School District Wide Area Network, computer network, including Internet, homepages, e-mail accounts, blogs, pod casts and other forms of electronic communication and other forms of electronic communication devices.
- Select a software program to filter and block access to the Internet based on items listed in the Administrative regulations.
- Log network use and monitor storage disk space utilization by users.
- Remove a user's access to the network any time it is determined that the user is engaged in unauthorized activity or violating this acceptable use policy.
- Cooperate fully with any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activity.
- Monitor school websites for content in accordance with Policy 5145.2.
- Provide access to a parallel public wireless network in order to bridge the gap between the way students live and the way students learn.

All students and staff must annually sign an agreement to adhere to this Acceptable Use Policy. Student agreements must be co-signed by either parents/guardians.

Policy Adopted: April 12, 1998  
Policy Revised: December 12, 2000  
Policy Revised: October 16, 2001  
Policy Revised: November 12, 2002  
Policy Revised: June 12, 2007  
Policy Revised: January 10, 2012

EASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT