

## INTERNET PROTECTION POLICY

### General Information

Internet access will be provided to students in accordance with the terms of this policy. Internet access from school computers is reserved solely for educational purposes. Use by outside groups is prohibited. Use by student clubs and organizations is limited to those times when the Internet access points are not in use for instruction, and shall be limited to educational purposes and governed by this policy. Access to the Internet will be under the direction and supervision of the staff assigned to the particular Internet access area or computer.

The School District reserves the right to monitor all Internet activity including transmission and receipt of e-mail. Use of e-mail is limited to School District purposes.

Every computer in the district having Internet access shall not be operated by a student unless Internet access from the computer is subject to filtering software. Such filtering software shall be designed and it shall operate so that images which are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors shall not be displayed. Such filtering software shall also be designed and it shall operate so that images or language which advocate or promote violence or hatred against particular individuals or groups of individuals or promotes the superiority of one racial, ethnic or religious group over another shall not be displayed. For purposes of this policy, the phrase *harmful to minors* means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that, taken as a whole, and with respect to minors, appeals to prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion; depicts, describes or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals and, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

### Prohibited Conduct

No student shall while using a computer or other device connected to the Internet:

1. Access, transmit or retransmit material which promotes violence or advocates destruction of property, including information concerning the manufacture of destructive devices, such as explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs, incendiary devices or the like;
2. Access, transmit or retransmit any information which is harmful to minors as that phrase is defined in this policy.
3. Access, transmit or retransmit material which advocates or promotes violence or

hatred against particular individuals or groups of individuals or advocates or promotes the superiority of one racial, ethnic or religious group over another.

4. Use or possesses bootleg software. Bootleg software means any software which has been downloaded or is otherwise in the user's possession without the appropriate registration of the software, including the payment of any fees owing to the owner of the software.
5. Use encryption software from any access point within the School District.
6. Transmit credit card or other personal identification information, including home addresses or telephone numbers from any School District computer.
7. Transmit e-mail through an anonymous remailer.
8. Access the Internet from a School District computer using a non-School District Internet account.
9. Use an instant messenger service or program, Internet Relay Chat or other forms of direct electronic communication, or enter a chat room without the express permission of the staff member supervising the computer resource.
10. Commit or attempt to commit any willful act involving the use of the network which disrupts the operation of the network within the School District or any network connected to the Internet, including the use or attempted use or possession of computer viruses or so-called hacking or other unlawful activities on line.
11. Disable or attempt to disable filtering software. However, such filtering software may be disabled for bona fide research or other lawful purposes when the building principal of the building in which such research or other lawful activity will be conducted has given written permission to disable the filtering software.

In addition to those penalties set forth in the student discipline code, a violation of this Internet policy may also result in loss of Internet privileges.

Opinions, advice, services, and all other information expressed on line are those of the on-line authors and not of the district. The Internet contains information pertaining to a variety of subjects. Not all of this information is accurate or reliable, particularly where the advice of medical, legal, accounting, or other professionals would be appropriate. Users are advised not to rely on advice found on the Internet. The School District is not responsible for such advice.

The School District does not guarantee or imply that access to the Internet will always be available when students want access or that the software provided by the district will always work as intended. The School District is not responsible for failures in the operation or technical functioning of the Internet or the computers or software used to access the Internet.

## **Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet and Other Electronic Resources**

The Deposit Central School District ("District") recognizes the value of computer and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of its schools. To this end, Deposit Central School District encourages the responsible use of computers; computer networks, including the Internet; and other electronic resources in support of the mission and goals set forth by the Deposit Central School Board of Education.

Because the Internet is an unregulated, worldwide vehicle for communication, information available to staff and students is impossible to control. Therefore, the Deposit Central School Board of Education adopts this policy governing the voluntary use of electronic resources and the Internet in order to provide guidance to individuals and groups obtaining access to these resources on Deposit Central School owned equipment or through Deposit Central School-affiliated organizations.

### **Deposit Central School Rights and Responsibilities**

It is the policy of the Deposit Central School District to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all online network activities by staff and students. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee, student, or other individual to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies of the network. Within this general policy, the District recognizes its legal and ethical obligation to protect the well-being of students in its charge. To this end, the District retains the following rights and recognizes the following obligations:

1. To log network use and to monitor fileserver space utilization by users, and assume no responsibility or liability for files deleted due to violation of fileserver space allotments.
2. To remove a user account on the network.
3. To monitor the use of online activities. This may include real-time monitoring of network activity and/or maintaining a log of Internet activity for later review.
4. To provide internal and external controls as appropriate and feasible. Such controls shall include the right to determine who will have access to the District owned equipment and, specifically, to exclude those who do not abide by the District's acceptable use policy or other policies governing the use of school facilities, equipment, and materials. The Deposit Central School District reserves the right to restrict online destinations through software or other means.
5. To provide guidelines and make reasonable efforts to train staff and students in acceptable use and policies governing online communications.

## **Staff Responsibilities**

1. Staff members who supervise students, control electronic equipment, or otherwise have occasion to observe student use of said equipment online shall make reasonable efforts to monitor the use of this equipment to assure that it conforms to the mission and goals of the Deposit Central School District. Staff should make reasonable efforts to become familiar with the Internet and its use so that effective monitoring, instruction, and assistance may be achieved.

## **User Responsibilities**

1. Use of the electronic media provided by the Deposit Central School District is a privilege that offers a wealth of information and resources for research. Where it is available, this resource is offered to staff, students, and other patrons at no cost. In order to maintain the privilege, users agree to learn and comply with all of the provisions of this policy.

## **Acceptable Use**

1. All use of the Internet must be in support of educational and research objectives consistent with the mission and objectives of the Deposit Central School District. Proper codes of conduct in electronic communication must be used. In news groups, giving out personal information is inappropriate. When using e-mail, extreme caution must always be taken in revealing any information of a personal nature.
2. Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose.
3. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
4. Subscriptions to mailing lists and bulletin boards must be reported to the system administrator. Prior approval for such subscriptions is required for students and staff.
5. Mailing list subscriptions will be monitored and maintained, and files will be deleted from the personal mail directories to avoid excessive use of fileserver hard-disk space.
6. Exhibit exemplary behavior on the network as a representative of your school and community. Be polite!

7. From time to time, the Deposit Central School District will make determinations on whether specific uses of the network are consistent with the acceptable use practice.

### **Unacceptable Use**

1. Giving out personal information about another person, including home address and phone number, is strictly prohibited.
2. Any use of the network for commercial or for-profit purposes is prohibited.
3. Excessive use of the network for personal business shall be cause for disciplinary action.
4. Any use of the network for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
5. Users shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the network.
6. No use of the network shall serve to disrupt the use of the network by others. Hardware and/or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
7. Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited.
8. Hate mail, chain letters, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited on the network.
9. The unauthorized installation of any software, including shareware and freeware, for use on the District's computers is prohibited.
10. Use of the network to access or process pornographic material, inappropriate text files (as determined by the system administrator or building administrator), or files dangerous to the integrity of the local area network is prohibited.
11. The Deposit Central School network may not be used for downloading entertainment software or other files not related to the mission and objectives of the District for transfer to a user's home computer, personal computer, or other media. This prohibition pertains to freeware, shareware, copyrighted commercial and non-commercial software, and all other forms of software and files not directly related to the instructional and administrative purposes of the District. Downloading, copying, otherwise duplicating, and/or distributing copyrighted materials without the specific written permission of the copyright owner is

prohibited, except that duplication and/or distribution of materials for educational purposes is permitted when such duplication and/or distribution would fall within the Fair Use Doctrine of the United States Copyright Law (Title 17, USC).

12. Use of the network for any unlawful purpose is prohibited.
13. Use of profanity, obscenity, racist terms, or other language that may be offensive to another user is prohibited.
14. Playing games is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a teacher for instructional purposes.
15. Establishing network or Internet connections to live communications, including voice and/or video (relay chat) and social networking sites is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the system administrator.

#### **Disclaimer**

1. The Deposit Central School District cannot be held accountable for the information that is retrieved via the network.
2. Pursuant to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (18 USC 2510 et seq.), notice is hereby given that there are no facilities provided by this system for sending or receiving private or confidential electronic communications. System administrators have access to all mail and will monitor messages. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
3. The Deposit Central School District will not be responsible for any damages you may suffer, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by our own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained is at your own risk.
4. The Deposit Central School District makes no warranties (expressed or implied) with respect to:
  - the content of any advice or information received by a user, or any costs or charges incurred as a result of seeing or accepting any information; and
  - any costs, liability, or damages caused by the way the user chooses to use his or her access to the network.
5. The Deposit Central School District reserves the right to change its policies and rules at any time.

*User Agreement (to be signed by all adult users and student users above grade 5)*

I have read, understand, and will abide by the above Acceptable Use Policy when using computer and other electronic resources owned, leased, or operated by the Deposit Central School District. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may be initiated.

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User Name (please print)

User Signature

Date

*Parent Agreement (to be signed by parents of all student users under the age of eighteen)*

As parent or guardian of [please print name of student] \_\_\_\_\_, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. Deposit Central School has taken reasonable steps to control access to the Internet, but cannot guarantee that all controversial information will be inaccessible to student users. I agree that I will not hold the Deposit Central School District responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission for my child to use network resources, including the Internet, that are available through Deposit Central School

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Parent Name (please print)

Parent Signature

Date