

## **FOSTER-GLOCESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET AND COMPUTER ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

### **Forward**

The use of Educational Technology (defined hereafter as: computers, hard wired and wireless networks, network equipment, district software, and all peripherals) and the Internet is a privilege. All Members of the educational community (defined hereafter as: guests, students, faculty, staff and administrators) are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school district's Educational Technology and the Internet just as they are when involved in any school activity. General school rules and policies apply to all school computer use, Internet activity and communication. Inappropriate use may result in loss of access privileges or further disciplinary action. Specific violations will be assigned consequences by the appropriate administrator.

### **Policy**

The School Committee supports access by members to the rich learning opportunities available through the use of Educational Technology and the Internet. District personnel will review and evaluate electronic resources and materials that support instruction within curricula, directing and guiding student use of those resources. While students may be able to search beyond those resources to unevaluated material, school staff will provide guidelines and pathfinders particularly suited to learning objectives.

All students will be informed by staff of their rights and responsibilities as users of the District network prior to gaining access to it, either as an individual or as a member of a class or group. Permission is not transferable and may not be shared.

### **Filtering**

The Internet will be filtered, in accordance with the **Childrens' Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**, to limit Members to educationally appropriate sites as determined by the school administration.

### **Acceptable Use**

Use of Educational Technology, again, is a privilege for Members and not a right. The Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee expects Members to use these tools in a responsible manner for educational purposes, and to be considerate of all other users. Commonly understood standards of Internet etiquette ("netiquette") will be promoted and utilized within and outside the District. The Internet offers a wealth of information, an opportunity for exchanging ideas, and possibilities for engaging collaborative work. However, Members will be held accountable for their own responsible Internet use. Acceptable use of Educational Technology and related devices is any use that is consistent with the educational objectives of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District.

Members should not expect that computer activity would be private. District Information Technology staff may utilize security software and review activity to maintain system integrity and insure proper use. School staff and administrators may only review student files for educational purposes.

## **Unacceptable Use**

Including but not limited to:

**Communication.** It is unacceptable to use online communication (chat rooms, email and network instant messaging) for non-educational purposes unless directed by staff. If a student accesses web sites that ask for comments or a reply, which requires sending or receiving e-mail, it is recommended that student include their name and the school name at the bottom of the e-mail message. Students should never publish or post their home address or phone number. Additionally, students may not post personal information including but not limited to addresses or phone numbers of other students, teachers, administrators or other District staff to the District's network or the Internet.

**Illegal and Unethical Activity.** It is unacceptable use to in any way promote or engage in any activities that are deemed criminal under federal, state, or local laws, including but not limited to copyright, credit card, and electronic forgery laws. It is understood that technology facilitates plagiarism; all pertinent school district policies apply to this unethical use of educational resources, and the school community shall continually strive to eliminate such practice.

**Hacking and Vandalism.** It is unacceptable use to attempt to harm, alter, or destroy any hardware or data of the District or of another user, or to access another's account – whether in school or any site connected via the Internet. This includes but is not limited to the creation and spreading of computer viruses. Attempts to thwart existing security practices such as avoiding monitoring, circumventing filtering software, or cloaking Instant Messaging activity is not acceptable. It is also unacceptable use to attempt to acquire and/or use another's password or account.

**Offensive and Obscene Material.** It is unacceptable use to send or receive any data that is mean, threatening, suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or violent.

**Personal Devices.** In our advancing technological environment, fair and acceptable use is subject to review by the District Technology Committee and administrators. Implicit to consent with the policies herein is the use of personal devices such as but not limited to laptop computers, hand-held personal computers, and cell phones. Personal computing devices may only be used in defined areas and/or networks as delineated by district IT staff.

**Commercial Activity.** It is unacceptable use to engage in activity for private or financial gain. It is unacceptable use to make purchases or incur charges of any kind without express written consent of the Superintendent.