

STUDENT ACCESS TO NETWORKED INFORMATION RESOURCES

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred by members of society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The Board generally supports access by students to such information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship. Telecommunications, electronic information sources, and networked services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources. Telecommunications, because they may lead to any publicly available files server in the world, will open classrooms to electronic information resources which have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

I. Content filtering software blocks or filters access to visual depictions that are obscene, contain child pornography, or are harmful to minors. Filtering software is now in use on all district owned computers, and other Internet capable devices. Any attempt to circumvent this filtering is strictly prohibited.

II. As technology evolves, students may also be permitted to use **personal devices** to access the Internet via district owned filtered network resources. Upon signing an agreement, such personal equipment and devices become subject to filtering (compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) at home also. Anti-virus, anti-malware, and all operating system patches must be used, and be kept current in order to ensure the security of the network for all users. Use of personal devices, such as smart phones, at school to **directly** access the Internet (thus circumventing district provided filtering) is prohibited, unless explicitly permitted by an educational staff person in consultation with their building's administrative team, and the technology department.

III. Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply (see Board Policy section 5500). The network is provided for students to conduct research, complete assignments, and communicate with others for educational purposes. Access to network services will be provided only to students who act in a considerate and responsible manner.

IV. Personal information such as complete names, addresses, telephone numbers and identifiable photos should remain confidential when communicating on the system(s). No user may disclose, use, or disseminate personal identification information regarding minors without authorization. Students encountering information or messages they deem dangerous or inappropriate on the web or when using electronic mail or direct communications should notify their teacher or other adult staff. Chat rooms and direct electronic communications (Instant Message services) are not permitted on school networks unless expressly authorized.

V. Independent student use of district owned telecommunications and electronic information resources at home may be permitted, when available by assignment or loan to a student, upon submission of current permission forms and agreement forms by parents of minor students (under 18 years of age) and by students themselves. An appropriate deposit may be required for equipment assigned to, or loaned to, a particular student. In all cases, the family is responsible for the repair and/or replacement of negligently damaged, or lost equipment.

VI. Use of the network resources at school or at home must be in support of educational goals. The district reserves the right to prioritize use and access to the system. No use of the system shall serve to disrupt the use of the system by others; system components including hardware or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way. Malicious use of the system to develop programs or institute practices that harass other users or gain unauthorized access to any entity on the system and/or damage the components of an entity on the network is prohibited. Users are responsible for the appropriateness of the material they transmit over the system. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, or other antisocial behaviors are expressly prohibited. Such acts constitute a violation of Policy section 5516 regarding hazing, section 5517 regarding bullying and harassment, and other pertinent sections. Such behavior will lead to disciplinary action under current guidelines.

VII. Access to telecommunications will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and electronic resources while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefits to students from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, Bellevue City School District supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow independent home access, or to explicitly limit searching of Internet resources at school. It must be understood however, that there are electronic resources such as InfOhio databases, and other online curricular resources which are hosted physically in an Internet "cloud," will be considered to be a part of the school district's network. These resources are a necessary part of curriculum instruction and access will not be limited.

VIII. Unless expressly disagreeing with this Policy and Agreement in writing, students will be given access to the network and Internet at school, and participate in all educational activities. In certain educational situations students will also be granted remote access from the Internet. Exception or partial agreement to this Acceptable Use Policy, as printed in the student manual, may be made by reviewing, signing, and returning the modified terms of your assent to this Policy and Agreement. Unless you do so in writing, it is understood that by enrolling your student in Bellevue City School District, you are agreeing to follow this Policy in its entirety, regardless of the location of your access, at school or via the Internet.

IX. The following are uses that are unacceptable under any circumstances:

- ❖ Installation of any software, sharing of passwords, or making changes in workstation configuration in an attempt to bypass web content filters, network security, and/or Internet access restrictions.
- ❖ Installation of any software, sharing of passwords, or making changes in configuration in an attempt to alter the educational use of a PC, server, or other technology, without the express permission of a teacher, or other staff.
- ❖ The transmission of any language or images which are of a graphic sexual nature
- ❖ The transmission of any material, jokes, pictures, or other materials which are obscene, lewd, vulgar, or disparaging of persons based on their race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation
- ❖ The transmission of messages or any other content which would be perceived by a reasonable person to be harassing, bullying, or threatening
- ❖ Uses which constitute defamation (libel or slander)
- ❖ Uses which violate copyright laws
- ❖ Uses that attempt to gain unauthorized access to another system or to impair the operation of another system (for example, the transmission of a computer virus or an excessively large e-mail attachment; viewing, transmitting, or printing, private information, etc.)
- ❖ Any commercial or profit-making activities
- ❖ Any fundraising activities, unless specifically sponsored by our schools.

Such uses may lead to disciplinary action under current guidelines.

X. The Bellevue City School District makes **no warranties of any kind**, either express or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks, wireless network, the Internet, and other technologies provided under this Policy and Agreement. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user's use of these technologies under this Policy and Agreement. By assenting to this Policy and Agreement, users are taking full responsibility for his or her use, and the user who is 18 or older or, in the case of a user under 18, the parent(s) or guardian(s) are agreeing to indemnify and hold the Bellevue City School District and the Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association that provides the computer and Internet access opportunity to the Bellevue City School District and all of their administrators, teachers and staff harmless from any and all loss, costs, claims or damages resulting from the user's access to its computer network, the Internet, and other technologies, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchases of goods or services by the user. The user or, if the user is a minor, the user's parent(s) or guardian(s) agree to cooperate with the School in the event of the School's initiating an investigation of a user's use of his or her access to its computer network, wireless network, the Internet, and other technologies whether that use is on a School computer or on another's outside the School District.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to prepare appropriate procedures for implementing this policy and for reviewing and evaluating its effect on instruction and student achievement.

Last Revised – May 2011