

**West Chester Area
School District**

SECTION: INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
 TITLE: STUDENT INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
 ADOPTED: 8/28/95
 REVISED: 11/22/99, 5/28/02, 1/25/10

<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p align="center">IFBH –INTERNET SAFETY AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY</p> <p>Telecommunications is radically changing the way the world accesses information. The Internet, an international computer network made up of many contributing networks, represents a powerful educational resource unlike anything that precedes it.</p> <p>Using Internet resources both locally and world-wide, users can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access research materials to meet their educational and personal information needs • consult with experts in various content areas and unified arts fields • connect with university and college libraries • communicate directly with other users locally or world-wide • engage in electronic field trips <p>The skills required for using the Internet are vital to the long term success of users when they enter higher education and the work force. West Chester Area School District ("district") is pleased to offer access to the Internet to enhance and support student learning.</p> <p>It is the intent of the district to (1) prevent user access over its computer network, to or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (2) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; and (3) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors.</p> <p>The purpose of the Acceptable Use Policy is to provide information, not to exclude anyone. However, the district reserves the right to prioritize the use of systems and does not intend to create a First Amendment forum for free expression purposes. Access to the district's network or Internet is a privilege, not a right.</p>
<p>2. Definitions 47 U.S.C. Sec. 254</p>	<p>Key terms, unless otherwise clearly indicated by context, are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).</p>
<p>3. Authority</p> <p>24 P.S. Sec. 4601 et seq. (Child Internet Protection Act)</p> <p>47 U.S.C. Sec. 254</p>	<p>The Board and the district are aware that the Internet in an unregulated communication environment in which information changes constantly, and that some of this information may not be appropriate for users, based on age and/or development levels. District educators will take an active role in ensuring that students and their parents are aware of the individual user's responsibility in using the network and Internet resources in an ethical and educational manner. The district's goal is to provide individual users with the understanding and skills needed to use the Internet in ways appropriate to their individual educational needs.</p> <p>The district makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this policy. The district shall not be responsible for any claims,</p>



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	<p>losses, damages, or costs (including attorney’s fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user arising out of the use of its computer networks or the Internet under this policy.</p> <p>The district shall not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.</p> <p>The district reserves the right to log Internet use and to monitor server files by district users.</p> <p>The Board shall establish guidelines and procedures that address requirements set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).</p>
<p>4. Guidelines</p> <p>47 U.S.C. Sec. 254 24 P.S. Secs. 4604, 4610</p>	<p>The district has developed the following guidelines for the appropriate use of the Internet resources:</p> <p><u>Access to Inappropriate Material</u> To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful and educational purposes.</p> <p><u>Inappropriate Network Usage</u> To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the district computer network when using electronic communications, online collaboration, and shared applications. Prevention of inappropriate network usage includes, but is not limited to: (1) unauthorized access, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities; and (2) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.</p> <p><u>Supervision and Monitoring</u> It shall be the responsibility of all professional employees (pedagogical and administrative staff) of the district to supervise and monitor usage of the district’s computers, computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy. Every effort will be made to supervise students using computers with access to the Internet and to guide them to appropriate areas of this global resource. This may not prevent the user from accessing inappropriate materials, but it does mean that to do so is a conscious choice on the part of the user. The district retains the right to access and review all electronic transmissions and transmission logs contained in or used in conjunction with the district’s computer system, telephone system, electronic mail system, and voice mail system.</p> <p><u>Education</u> The district will advocate and provide education for employees, students, and parents on safe and appropriate online conduct including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. Education will be provided through such means as professional development, student classes or assemblies, the district web sites, and other materials.</p>



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	<p><u>Acceptable Use</u> Users shall be held accountable for their own actions, and disciplinary action shall be taken if resources are used inappropriately. Acceptable use and disciplinary actions are included in but not limited to School Board Policies: IFBH – Student Acceptable Use Policy, IFBH-R– Student User Guidelines and Parent Opt-Out Form, IFBK – Web Page Policy, JD – Student Discipline, JD-R – Student Discipline, JGDB – Harassment Policy (of Students), and JGDC – Bullying, as well as federal, state and local law</p>
<p>5. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 7611</p> <p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 6777</p> <p>47 U.S.C. Sec. 254</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing monitoring and disciplinary procedures verifying that student use of the Internet is compliant with the guidelines and for notifying the proper authorities of violations of local, state, and federal laws.</p> <p>Internet filtering software or other technology-based protection systems may be disabled at the written request of a supervising teacher or school administrator for purposes of bona fide research or other legitimate educational use not dealing with materials that are specifically prohibited under law.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>The student contract was revised to include a Safety section and to update the parent consent section for students at the elementary level.</p> <p>The policy was updated to conform to meet new requirements in the Children’s Internet Protection Act.</p> </div>