

## **Section 300: Instruction**

### **Internet Safety and Acceptable Technology Use**

**Code #363.02**

Networked information resources like the Internet, and other new technologies are expanding the ways that we access, communicate, and transfer information. The use of Internet in the Tri-County Area School District enables teachers to obtain educational resources and locate unique information. It also provides the opportunity for collaboration, resource sharing, and exchange of ideas and messages among colleagues. The Internet brings valuable and abundant information resources into our District and enables students to explore other libraries, educational sites, universities, government agencies, and other information databases worldwide. It also enables classes to communicate with students and professionals around the world.

Electronic information research skills are essential to function as an educated individual in an information society. Accordingly, the District supports student and faculty access to the world's information resources, and we intend to provide students with appropriate instruction to allow them to develop the skills necessary to access, evaluate, and use networked information effectively and responsibly.

The school staff will use the Internet in formal instruction with a class, a group of students, or individual students to access information resources and to teach personal responsibility and online safety while using Internet based resources. The District will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms. Cyberbullying awareness and response will also be addressed. Outside of formal, supervised use of Internet, students will have the opportunity for staff-monitored independent access to Internet resources in the computer labs, school libraries, and in individual classrooms. It shall be the responsibility of all District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Instructional and library media materials were selected according to established District selection policies which require that all such materials be consistent with District-adopted guidelines and support and enrich the curriculum, yet account for varied instructional needs, learning styles, and abilities of the students. Access to computers and networks all over the world will open classrooms to electronic information resources that have not been reviewed or selected by educators. It is possible to access materials through the Internet that may not be considered of educational value in a school setting. Some computer systems may contain material that is illegal, inaccurate, abusive, or potentially offensive to some people.

The District has taken precautions to prevent and discourage the access of such materials by teaching responsible use, monitoring use, and by using technology protection measures (or "Internet Filters"). Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking with the use of Internet filters shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed "obscene" or "child pornography", or to any material deemed "harmful to minors". (Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.\*). However, on a global network it is impossible to limit/control access to all materials. The District does not warrant the effectiveness of Internet filtering. All District computers with Internet access shall use such filters.

Subject to the Network Administrator, technology protection measures may be temporarily disabled or, in the case of students, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Procedures for disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Network Administrator. Users found attempting to circumvent the Internet Filters to access blocked material will be subject to disciplinary procedures. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users when using electronic mail and other permissible forms of direct communications.

\* CIPA definitions of terms:

**TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE.** The term "technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. **OBSCENE**, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. **CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. **Harmful to minors.**

**HARMFUL TO MINORS.** The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. 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
3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

**SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT.** The terms "sexual act" and "sexual contact" have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

Code #363.2 Internet Safety and Acceptable Technology Use ... continued

**Legal Reference:** Sections 120.13(1), 943.70, 947.0125, Wisconsin Statutes  
Children's Internet Protection Act 47 USC § 254

**Cross Reference:** 363.02 Rule, Internet Safety and Acceptable Technology Use Rule  
363.02 Exhibit 1, Independent Internet User Agreement and Parent  
Permission Form  
363.02 Exhibit 2, Staff Instructional Technology User Agreement.

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