

Washington West Supervisory Union Model Policy

Policy G11-R

G11-R: RESPONSIBLE USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES & THE INTERNET

It is the policy of the member district schools of the Washington West Supervisory Union: Fayston Elementary School, Harwood Union High School, Moretown Elementary School, Waitsfield Elementary School, Warren Elementary School, and the Waterbury/Duxbury Union School District (Crossett Brook Middle School and Thatcher Brook Primary School) to set standards for the responsible use of electronic resources.

General Information

Computers, electronic devices and the Internet provide access to vast, diverse, and unique resources in a global community. Our goal in providing students, teachers, and staff access to electronic tools, a computer network, and the Internet is to promote educational excellence in each of the member district schools of the Washington West Supervisory Union: Fayston Elementary School, Harwood Union High School, Moretown Elementary School, Waitsfield Elementary School, Warren Elementary School, and the Waterbury/Duxbury Union School District (Crossett Brook Middle School and Thatcher Brook Primary School).

This policy complies with the statutory requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and promotes the safe, ethical, responsible, and legal use of electronic resources including the Internet to support the effective use of these resources for educational purposes. CIPA requires the installation and use of filtering software or services on all computers with access to the Internet to prevent access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography or other materials harmful to minors.

Access to member district electronic resources, within or outside the school setting, including the Internet will be available to students and staff who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner and abide by the requirements of this policy. All electronic devices and computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Personal electronic devices used at a district school are subject to the same expectations.

Violation of this policy and the procedures developed in accordance with this policy may result in disciplinary action or referral to local, state or federal law enforcement officials.

Administrative Responsibilities

The Superintendent or designee will coordinate and oversee the use of member district electronic resources including the Internet. The Principal or designee will serve as the building-level coordinator for use of the electronic resources including the Internet and will develop building-level procedures necessary to implement this policy. The procedures will include provision for educators to receive proper training, guidelines for the supervision of students using the system, monitoring the use of the system, and overseeing management of the "Responsible use procedures" agreement process.

The member districts will stipulate in any agreement or contract that Internet service providers will not collect, analyze, and/or sell individual or anonymous student use data for the purpose of commercial advertising and marketing research activities. The collection and analysis of student use

data strictly for the purpose of evaluating the educational success of the electronic resources is allowed, provided that student confidentiality standards are maintained.

Staff Responsibilities

School staff members are responsible for assuring that students are instructed and supervised in a manner that is both appropriate to the age of the students, and considers the circumstances regarding the use of electronic resources including the Internet. The Principal or designee will develop and disseminate staff supervision guidelines for their respective schools.

Student electronic records are confidential and should be treated like all other student records.

User Responsibilities

During school hours, student users may access electronic resources including the Internet for educational purposes only. The term "educational purpose" includes use of the system for classroom activities, which may involve e-mail communication, career development, and curriculum driven research.

Students agree to follow communication safety protocol outlined in administrative procedures when using electronic communications including the Internet.

Staff may access the member district's electronic resources for limited personal use. At the member district's discretion, limited personal use may be made available to students. Limited personal use of the member district's electronic resources including the Internet shall be allowed if the use:

- imposes no tangible cost to the member district;
- does not unduly burden the member district's electronic resources;
- occurs during non-instructional time and does not impede other student or staff access for educational purposes; and
- does not violate this policy.

Users will respect the rights of copyright owners and will not plagiarize works they find on the member district's electronic network including the Internet by presenting them as their own.

Users will not intentionally interfere with individual computer or network system performance or attempt to access another person's account, files, or password. Individuals may be denied access to the system based upon security violations of any computer system.

Users should not expect that any files and records of their online activity created on the member district's system are private. Users will be informed about the member district's supervision and monitoring activities and the limitations on their privacy.

Students and staff may not access materials for any purpose that the member district deems to be potentially harmful, inappropriate, or illegal. This includes materials that are obscene or child pornography.

Parent Notification and Responsibility

Each member district school will provide written notice to parents/guardians about student use of member district electronic resources including the Internet, the policies and procedures governing their use, and the limitation of liability of the member district.

Limitation/Disclaimer of Liability

The member districts are not liable for unacceptable use or violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, user mistakes or negligence, and costs incurred by users. The member districts are not responsible for ensuring the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any information found on the member district's electronic resources network including the Internet.

The member districts are not responsible for any damage experienced, including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The member districts are not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through or stored on the electronic resources system including the Internet, or for financial obligations arising through their unauthorized use.

Date Warned: 01.20.11
Date Adopted: FES: 02.15.11; HUHS: 02.16.11; MES: 02.01.11; W-D: 02.08.11; WES: 02.14.11; WS: 02.10.11
Legal Reference(s): 15 U.S.C. §6501 (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act)
17 U.S.C. §§101-120 (Federal Copyright Act of 1976 as amended)
18 U.S.C. §2510 (Electronic Communications Privacy Act)
18 U.S.C. §2251 (Federal Child Pornography Law)
47 U.S.C. §230 (Computer Decency Act)
13 V.S.A. §§2802 et seq. (Obscenity, minors)
Cross Reference: Student Conduct and Discipline (F1)
Copyrights (G2)
Selection of Instructional Materials (G5)
Complaints About Instructional Materials (G6)