

# Series 6000

## Students

### Instruction

#### District's Computer System and Internet Safety

Computers, computer networks, electronic devices, Internet access, and e-mail are effective and important technological resources. The Board of Education provides computers, a computer network, including Internet access and an e-mail system, as well as other electronic devices that access the network such as wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing etc. (including, but not limited to, laptops, Kindles, radios, I-Pads or other tablet computers), referred to collectively as "the computer systems", in order to enhance both the educational opportunities for our students and the business operations of the district.

These computer systems are business and educational tools. As such, they are made available to students in the district for education related uses. The Administration shall develop regulations setting forth procedures to be used by the Administration in an effort to ensure that such computer systems are used by students solely for education related purposes. The Board will educate minor students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. Additionally, the Board will implement a technology protection measure to block or filter Internet access to visual depictions that contain obscene material, contain child pornography, or are harmful to minors and ensure that such filtering technology is operative during computer use by minor students.

As the owner of the computer systems, the Board reserves the right to monitor the use of the district's computers and computer systems.

#### Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250

Electronic Communication Privacy Act, of 1986, Public Law 99-508, codified at 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

Children's Internet Protection Act, Pub. L. 106-554, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 6777

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# Series 6000

## **Students**

### **Instruction**

#### **District's Computer System and Internet Safety**

Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, Pub. Law 110-385, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(5)(B)(iii)

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## Series 6000

### Students

### Instruction

### District's Computer System and Internet Safety

#### 1. Introduction

We are pleased to offer students access to the district's computers and computer networks, including access to electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet, as well as electronic devices, (all of which will be referred to collectively as "computer systems".) Access to the school's computer systems will enable students to explore libraries, databases and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with others. Such access is provided solely for education-related purposes. Use of the district's computer systems will be allowed only for students who act in a considerate and responsible manner in using such systems.

The Board of Education and the Administration believe in the educational value of such computer systems and recognize their potential to support our curriculum by expanding resources available for staff and student use. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

These computer systems are expensive to purchase, install and maintain. As the property of the district, these computer systems must be carefully handled and their integrity preserved for the benefit of all. Therefore, *access to the computer systems is a privilege, and not a right.* Students will be required to adhere to a set of policies and procedures, as set forth in detail below. Violations may lead to withdrawal of the access privilege and/or disciplinary measures in accordance with the Board's student discipline policy.

#### 2. Definitions

**Obscene** – means any material or performance if, a) taken as a whole, it predominantly appeals to the prurient interest, b) it depicts or describes in a patently offensive way a prohibited sex act and c) taken as a whole, does not have serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. For the purposes of this section, "prohibited sex act," means erotic fondling, nude performance, sexual excitement, sado-masochistic abuse, masturbation or sexual intercourse.

**Child pornography** –means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, cartoon, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where -

- (a) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- (b) such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- (c) such visual depiction has been created, adapted or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

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## Series 6000

### Students

### Instruction

### District's Computer System and Internet Safety

*Harmful to minors* – any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- (a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
- (b) 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
- (c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

### 3. Monitoring

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer systems just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the computer systems are often public in nature and general school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and will act in a responsible and legal manner, at all times in accordance with district standards, as well as with state and federal laws.

It is important that students and parents understand that the district, *as the owner of the computer systems, reserves the right to monitor and review* the use of these computer systems. The district intends to monitor and review in a limited fashion, but will do so as needed to ensure that the systems are being used for district-related educational purposes.

As part of the monitoring and reviewing process, the district will retain the capacity to bypass any individual password of a student or other user. *The system's security aspects, such as personal passwords and the message delete function for e-mail, can be bypassed for these purposes.* The district's ability to monitor and review is not restricted or neutralized by these devices. The monitoring and reviewing process also includes, but is not limited to; oversight of Internet site access, the right to review emails sent and received, the right to track students' access to blogs, electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms, and the right to review a student's document downloading and printing.

Therefore, all users must be aware that *they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of these computer systems.*

### 4. Student Conduct

Students are permitted to use the district's computer systems for legitimate educational purposes. Personal use of district computer systems is expressly prohibited. Conduct which constitutes inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to the following:

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Series 6000

Students

Instruction

District's Computer System and Internet Safety

- ◆ Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- ◆ Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to computer systems;
- ◆ Damaging computers, computer files, computer systems or computer networks;
- ◆ Downloading or modifying computer software of the district in violation of the district's licensure agreement(s) and/or without authorization from a teacher or administrator;
- ◆ Using another person's password under any circumstances;
- ◆ Trespassing in or tampering with any other person's folders, work or files;
- ◆ Sending any message that breaches the district's confidentiality requirements, or the confidentiality of students;
- ◆ Sending any copyrighted material over the system;
- ◆ Using computer systems for any personal purpose, or in a manner that interferes with the district's educational programs;
- ◆ Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors, as defined above;
- ◆ Transmitting or receiving e-mail communications or accessing information on the Internet for non-educational purposes;
- ◆ Cyberbullying;
- ◆ Accessing or attempting to access social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc.) without a legitimate educational purpose.

In addition, as noted above, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law, by Board policy or by school rules or regulations, use of these computer systems for the purpose of carrying out such behavior or activity is also prohibited.

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## Series 6000

### Students

### Instruction

### District's Computer System and Internet Safety

*Misuse of the computer systems, or violations of these policies and regulations, may result in loss of access to such computer systems as well as other disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion, depending on the specific conduct.*

Anyone who is aware of problems with, or misuse of these computer systems, or has a question regarding the proper use of these computer systems, should report this to his or her teacher or principal immediately. Most importantly, the Board and the Administration urge *any* student who receives *any* harassing, threatening, intimidating or other improper message through the computer system to report this immediately. It is the Board's policy that no student should be required to tolerate such treatment, regardless of the identity of the sender of the message.

*Please report these events!*

#### **5. Internet Safety**

The Administration will take measures: to assure the safety and security of students when using e-mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; to prohibit unauthorized access, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities by minors online; to prohibit unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students; to educate minor students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response; and to restrict students’ access to online materials harmful to minors, including obscene materials and child pornography.

#### **6. Student Use Agreement**

Before being allowed to use the district’s computer systems, students and/or their parents/guardians must sign a computer system use agreement, stating that they have read and understood the district’s policies and regulations regarding the use of its computer systems.

#### Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250 *et. seq.* (computer-related offenses)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-193 (definition of obscene)

18 U.S.C. § 2256 (definition of child pornography)

Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986, Public Law 99-508, codified at 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

Children’s Internet Protection Act, Pub. Law 106-554, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 6777

Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, Pub. Law 110-385, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(5)(B)(iii)

Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973) (definition of obscene)

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Eastford School District  
Student Use Agreement—District Computer Systems

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

All Eastford Public School computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Computers are used to support learning and to enhance instruction. The Internet, a network of networks, allows people to interact with hundreds of thousands of networks and other computers.

Internet access is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others in relation to schoolwork. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. Access is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the principal will deem what is inappropriate use. School Administrators may deny, revoke or suspend a specific user access at any time.

**STUDENT USE AGREEMENT**

I agree to take personal responsibility for following the rules of the acceptable use policy stated in this contract.

I will:

- Use the online resources provided by my school ONLY for school-sanctioned projects.
- Use the online resources provide by my school ONLY with the permission of a staff member.
- Use online language that is consistent with school policy. I will not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
- Not tamper with equipment or software.
- Not alter the network interface.
- Not attempt access to the data and files of others.
- Not attempt to access information on the Internet, or other online services, that are not consistent with the educational goals of the school.
- Follow copyright laws.
- Report any problems or breaches of this agreement to a teacher.
- Use the Internet appropriately and understand that if I do not, my behavior will result in :
  - Suspension of online privileges within the school building.
  - Being subjected to disciplinary measures under Board of Education policy, and/or being referred to the appropriate legal authorities, if warranted.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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As a parent/legal guardian of the student signing above, I have read the above agreement and I agree that my child may use the computer resources provided by the school if s/he follows the rules of this agreement. I have read and I agree to the rules and code of ethics. I understand that the Eastford Elementary School staff has taken available precautions to eliminate controversial materials. However, I also recognize it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial material and I will not hold the Eastford School District responsible for materials acquired on the Internet.

I understand that any conduct by my child that is in conflict with this agreement could result in the termination of his/her access rights as well as disciplinary action. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. If my child commits any violation, his/her access privileges may be revoked and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken. I agree to hold harmless the Eastford School District and its employees for any misuse of access to computer services. I understand that once signed this agreement is legally binding on me.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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