

STUDENTS**INTERNET/COMPUTER NETWORK POLICY**

Internet/Network access will be provided to the students of the District in accordance with the terms of this policy. Internet access from school district computers is reserved solely for educational purposes. Use by outside groups is prohibited. Use by student clubs and organizations is limited to those times when the Internet/Network access points are not in use for instruction and shall be limited to educational purposes and governed by this policy. Access to the Internet/Network will be under the direction and supervision of the staff assigned to the access area. Access to Email is restricted to structured educational activities.

The school district reserves the right to monitor all Internet/Network activity including transmission and receipt of Email. Use of e-mail is limited to school district purposes.

Every computer in the District having Internet access shall not be operated by a student unless Internet access from the computer is subject to filtering software. Such filtering software shall be designed and it shall operate so that images which are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors shall not be displayed. Such filtering software shall also be designed and it shall operate so that images or language which advocate or promote violence or hatred against particular individuals or groups of individuals or promotes the superiority of one racial, ethnic or religious group over another shall not be displayed. For purposes of this policy, the phrase *harmful to minors* means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that, taken as a whole, and with respect to minors, appeals to prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion; 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, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

A violation of this policy will be treated as a violation of the student discipline code and specifically as a violation of that section of the code which subjects a student to disciplinary action for failure to comply with the directions of a teacher, administrator, or other school employee. A violation of this policy may also result in disciplinary actions based upon other sections of the student discipline code.

Prohibited Conduct

No student who gains access to the Internet/Network from any access point within the school district shall:

1. Access, transmit, or retransmit material which promotes violence or advocates destruction of property including, but not limited to, access to information concerning the manufacturer of destructive devices such as explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs or incendiary devices or the like.
2. Access, transmit, or retransmit anything which is harmful to minors as that phrase is defined

in this policy.

3. Download files of any type (data, programs, executables [.exe]) without permission from the Network Administrator or designee.
4. Access, transmit, or retransmit material, which advocates or promotes violence or hatred against particular individuals or groups of individuals or advocates or promotes the superiority of one racial, ethnic or religious group over another.
5. Use or possess bootleg software. Bootleg software is defined as any software in possession of a user, which has been downloaded from the Internet/Network or is otherwise in possession of the user without the appropriate registration of the software including the payment of any fees owing to the owner of the software.
6. Use encryption software from any access point within the school district.
7. Transmit credit card information or other personal information including home addresses or telephone numbers from an access point within the school district.
8. Transmit Email through an anonymous remailer.
9. Access the Internet from a school district access point using a non District Internet account, including accessing external Email Accounts (such as Hotmail, Yahoo, etc.) from any school district access point.
10. Use an instant messenger service or program, Internet Relay Chat or other forms of direct electronic communication, or enter a chat room without the express permission of the staff member supervising the computer resource.
11. Commit or attempt to commit any willful act involving the use of the network which disrupts the operation of the network within the school district or any network connected to the Internet including use or attempted use or possession of computer viruses or so-called hacking or any other unlawful activities on line.
12. Disable or attempt to disable filtering software. However, such filtering software may be disabled for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, when the Building Principal of the building in which such research or other lawful activity will be conducted has given written permission to disable the filtering software.

Equipment connected to the District Network is limited to District owned equipment.

Data storage areas will be provided on the District Network, however, users must remain within specified capacities. The District Network Administrator will advise the students from time to time in regard to available network storage capacity. The publication of such advice will be by email and by posting in the appropriate areas of school.

In addition to those penalties set forth in the student discipline code, a violation of this Internet/Network Policy may also result in loss of Internet/Network privileges.

Opinions, advice, services and all other information expressed online are those of the online authors and not of the school district.

The Internet contains information pertaining to a variety of subjects. Not all this information is accurate or reliable, particularly where the advice of medical, legal accounting or other professionals would be appropriate. Users are advised not to rely on advice found on the Internet. The school district is not responsible for such advice.

The school district does not guarantee or imply that access to the Internet/Network will always be available when students want to access it or that the software provided by the District will always work as intended. The District is not responsible for failures in the operation or technical functioning of the Internet or the computers or software used to access the Internet.

Policy Adopted: January 20, 1998
Policy Amended: June 19, 2001

WALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Walton, New York