

FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMPUTER ETHICS, NETWORK SECURITY, AND
GLOBAL NETWORKS

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5195.1 Purpose

The District's networks and computing resources, which are critical information resources, exist to support the instructional needs of the District. The goal of the District is to provide technological services that promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

5195.2 Objectionable Materials

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The District has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials that an industrious user may discover. We firmly believe that the information and interaction available on a world-wide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the District.

5195.3 Responsibility

The Board endorses the use of technology as an integral part of the District's instructional program. The Superintendent shall be responsible to the Board for the development of educational programs using technology and global networks and shall establish procedures for the development of such programs which ensure the following:

- a) administrative and faculty involvement on all grade levels and from various subject areas for the purpose of making recommendations on the use and selection of technology - software and hardware throughout the District
- b) involvement by other educators and citizens knowledgeable in the effective use of technology
- c) other resources shall be employed as deemed necessary by the Superintendent.

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- 5195.4 The purchase of technology and the adoption of courses of study utilizing this technology as well as its inclusion in existing courses shall be reviewed with the Board and receive Board approval pursuant to law, regulations and policy.
- 5195.5 Authority
All network and computing resources must be in compliance with established policies, procedures and conditions of the District and any external entity administrating resources to which the network or computing resources are connected.
- 5195.6 All staff are expected to follow the established policies, procedures, and guidelines of the District, and its respective buildings. Users may not:
- a) Introduce any information, including applications or documents, on any District network or computing resource without first being processed by an anti-viral check.
 - b) Connect any device to, or disconnect any device from a network or computing resource.
 - c) Alter, in any way, a network or computing resource, devices, peripheral, file and/or folder names.
 - d) Copy applications, folders, and/or files unless it is directly related to curriculum projects and follows all other established policies and guidelines.
 - e) Use any network or computing resource for personal entertainment and/or private activities.
 - f) Use any network or computing resource to gain unauthorized access to other networks or computing resources.
 - g) Violate licensing agreements.

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- i.) Violate section 117 of the 1976 Copyright Act, as amended.
- j.) Violate software copyright laws.

5195.7

Actions Resulting from Misuse

Deliberate and/or negligent abuse of the network, computing resource, or any other District resource could lead to disciplinary action. Any such action would be subject to applicable procedures established by the District.

Serious violations may be punishable under Pennsylvania criminal statutes covering unlawful access, altering or damaging any computer system, network, software or database, with the intent to interrupt the normal functioning of an organization. In addition, knowingly and without authorization, disclosing a password to a computer system or network is also punishable by state statutes. The above violations carry serious fines and prison sentences.

5195.8

Complaints

The Superintendent is directed to establish procedures for handling complaints relative to the materials covered by this policy.