

SECAUCUS SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPUTER NETWORK POLICY

I. Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers & Resources

The Secaucus Board of Education recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the manner in which information is accessed, communicated and transferred that these changes will alter the nature of teaching and learning. Access to telecommunications will allow each student to explore databases, libraries, Internet sites, bulletin boards and other such electronic sources, while exchanging information with individuals throughout the world. The Board supports access by pupils to information sources but reserves the right to limit use to materials appropriate to educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes that telecommunications will allow students access to informational sources that have not been pre-screened by educators or Board of Education members. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer networks and declares unethical, unacceptable or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privileges and/or instituting legal action.

The Board provides access to computer network/computers for educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate student access to the computer network/computers at any time, for any reason. The Board retains the right to have district personnel monitor network activity, in any form necessary, to maintain the integrity of the network and insure its proper use.

II. Standards for Use of Computer Networks

Any individual engaging in the following actions when using computer network(s)/computers shall be subject to discipline and/or legal action:

1. Using the computer network(s)/computers for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities, which violate federal, state, local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the network. Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.
2. Using the computer network(s)/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.

3. Using the computer network(s) in a manner that:

- a. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network;
- b. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
- c. Uses the computing resources of the school district for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud;
- d. Steals data or other intellectual property;
- e. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another user;
- f. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
- g. Forges electronic mail messages or uses an account owned by others;
- h. Invades privacy of others;
- i. Posts anonymous messages;
- j. Possesses any data which is a violation of this policy; and/or
- k. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer network(s)/computers are provided.

III. Parent/Guardian and Student Agreement to Policy

At the time this policy is first initiated and at the beginning of each school year thereafter, each parent/guardian and student will sign this policy before access to the computer network(s)/computers is given to any student. This access includes usage of the Internet via the school network system. Failure to obtain both parent/guardian and student signature on this policy will prevent student from having the ability to access the school network and internet regardless of course being taken by student.

Through this policy the Board is fully informing parents/guardians that is considered impossible for administrators or teachers to be fully certain that students are not using electronic networks inappropriately at all times, but that discovery of any inappropriate activity will result in loss of electronic network access privileges and disciplinary action.

Furthermore, the Board feels that it is important for parents/guardians to take an interest in how their children are using the computers at home. Ask pointed questions about what tools they are using, what sites they are exploring, and with whom they are communicating.

IV. Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to the consequences as deemed necessary under this policy by the administrator of the school at which the violation took place. Appropriate discipline will include but will not be limited to the following:

1. Use of the network only under strict and direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer privileges;
5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension from school;
7. Expulsion from school and/or;
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

V. Agreement to Computer Network/Computers Policy

By signing your name below, you hereby agree to all of the above requirements, restrictions and disciplinary actions of this policy. Parents/Guardians signature is required for student to receive his or her introduction letter with his or her computer network password.

Print Student Name

Grade

Date

Student's Signature

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature