

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND TEXT MESSAGING

PURPOSE:

The North Kingstown School Committee recognizes the increasingly important role that technology plays in the educational process as well as in the personal lives of the students, teachers and staff of the School District. Online discourse through social computing, including the use of networking sites, text messaging, and the like empowers educators and students in the scope of their respective interactions. The School District respects the importance of open exchange and learning related to enhancing the educational environment in North Kingstown and supports this process.

The purpose of this policy is to protect and maintain professionalism in the School District for all people and to avoid, whenever possible, the appearance of impropriety in School Teacher/Staff-Student relationships.

PHILOSOPHY:

Within this context, the North Kingstown School Committee is committed to ensuring that all participants feel free to express their thoughts and ideas in a manner that does not substantially disrupt the educational process, or create unnecessary distractions to, or adversely impact the interpersonal relationships between the students, teachers and staff. This policy is intended to foster a thoughtful, responsible use of social networking and related technological communication tools that will minimize risk and be appropriately professional and respectful.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Cyber-bullying is willful and/or repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices. Cyber-bullying is punishable on or off school grounds if the harm causes a substantial disruption to the educational activities at the school. No student, employee, teacher or staff of the North Kingstown School District shall post, forward, or otherwise disseminate any data documents, photos, images, videos or other information using any technology medium, including social networking websites (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Flickr), which causes a disruption of classroom activity or the educational process. Bullying or sexual harassment as defined in policy JBA. Cyber-bullying or other objectively inappropriate behavior enabled by a position of authority, via the internet, instant messaging, text messaging or otherwise among School District staff and students is prohibited.

Students who violate this policy can be disciplined as deemed appropriate under the Bullying, Teen Dating, Violence and Sexual Harassment Regulation JBA-R, or the Student Behavior, Conduct and Discipline Regulation JICD-R.

First Reading: 11/8/2011

Second Reading: 4/24/2012

Adoption: 4/24/2012

Revised: