

## **Instruction**

### **Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet**

The Internet, a global electronic information infrastructure, is a network of networks used by educators, businesses, the government, and numerous organizations. The Board of Education believes that the Internet is a valuable tool that should be used in schools to educate and inform students, much like books, magazines, video, CD-ROM and other informational sources. The Board endorses student use of the Internet for learning and research which enhances information available through other mediums. This includes participation in distance learning activities, asking questions of and consulting experts, communicating with other students and individuals, and locating material to meet the educational needs of the students of the Oxford Public Schools.

While the Internet can provide students with a vast array of educational and informational resources, it can also be a window through which students could access information which is neither pertinent to nor appropriate for an educational setting. The availability of such electronic information does not imply endorsement by the Board of Education of its content nor of the use of such information by students and staff. It is important to give students assistance and guidance in accessing information which is beneficial to their education and equally important to recognize that total monitoring of students' access to the Internet would be impossible. Therefore, individual users of the Oxford Public Schools' Network are responsible for their use of the network and are expected to use it responsibly.

To ensure appropriate usage, the administration will establish guidelines for student exploration and use of electronic information resources. Such guidelines shall address issues of privacy, ethical use of information with respect to intellectual property, illegal uses of the network, and conditions of usage. The guidelines shall strive to preserve students' rights to examine and use information to meet the educational goals and objectives of the District. In addition, the District shall take steps, such as using filtering programs to block access to objectionable material, access controls and supervision by staff to monitor and/or restrict access to the electronic informational resources.

In recognition of the potential for improper use of the Internet in the educational setting, the Board requires that students who use the Internet comply with the following policies, as well as comply with any guidelines for use promulgated by the administration:

1. The use of the Internet is a privilege. As the owner of both the hardware and software that is available, the Oxford Public Schools may withhold this privilege. Failure to adhere to the established guidelines may result in the loss of Internet access, disciplinary action and/or referral to legal authorities.
2. Use of the Internet must be in support of education and research consistent with the educational goals and objective of the Oxford Public Schools.

## Instruction

### Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet (continued)

3. E-mail may be used for educational or administrative purposes. Electronic mail is not private. Those who operate the system have access to all mail which may be monitored at any time by designated staff to ensure appropriate use for instructional and administrative purposes.
4. Users must not reveal personal information about themselves or others, including, but not limited to, the following: home address, telephone numbers, password, social security number or credit card number.
5. Users will comply with all state, federal and local laws, including copyright laws and laws prohibiting harassment by computer.
6. Users must not interfere with others' work or with the performance of the computers, both hardware and software. Prohibited actions include, but are not limited to, the following: attempting to illicitly obtain or use passwords or screen names, entering closed areas of the network, introducing computer viruses or committing acts of vandalism, and/or any attempt to harm or destroy data of another user.
7. Users may not establish any official representation of the school or school district (i.e., Internet home page) without obtaining prior approval of school administration.
8. Each user will abide by the generally accepted rules of etiquette and applicable school policies, which include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Use appropriate language. Do not write or send abusive messages or those which contain vulgarities.
  - Chain letters and pyramid schemes (chain letters with money) are illegal.
  - Bulk posting to individuals or groups to overload the system (i.e., "spamming") is prohibited

To ensure that only authorized students who understand the bounds of permitted use will have access to the Internet, Oxford Public Schools must obtain the written permission of a student's parent or legal guardian before the student may access the Internet.

*For districts participating in the federal E-Rate program:*

The District recognizes its responsibility to educate students regarding appropriate behavior on social networking and chat room sites about cyberbullying. Therefore, students shall be provided instruction about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response."

## **Instruction**

### **Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet** (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

53a-182b. Harassment in the first degree: Class D felony. (as amended by PA 95-143)

20 U.S.C. Section 6777, No Child Left Behind Act

20 U.S.C. 254 Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000

47 U.S.C. Children's Online Protection Act of 1998

Public Law 110-385 Broadband Data Improvement Act/Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act

Policy adopted: June 12, 2012

OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Oxford, Connecticut

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STUDENT USE OF THE INTERNET  
(Acceptable Use Agreement)

*In order to provide for the appropriate use of the Internet in keeping with Board of Education policy, the following "Acceptable Use Agreement" has been developed. (A copy of this agreement will be distributed to students and parents for signature before a student is issued an Internet account.)*

**Terms and Conditions**

All computers having internet access must be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this Agreement will result in revocation of access privileges.

1. **Acceptable Use:** The use of your Internet account must be consistent with the educational objectives of the Oxford School District. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. copyrighted material
  - b. threatening or obscene material
  - c. material protected by trade secret
2. **Privilege:** The use of the internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator(s) will deem what is inappropriate use and that decision is final. The system administrator(s) may close an account at any time, as required. The administration, faculty and staff may request the system administrator to deny, revoke or suspend specific user accounts.
3. **No Warranty:** The Oxford School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Oxford School District will not be responsible for any damages you suffer in using the Internet. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries or service interruptions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. The Oxford School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through this service.
4. **Vandalism:** Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

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**STUDENT USE OF THE INTERNET**  
**(Acceptable Use Agreement)**  
(continued)

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I understand and will abide by the above Agreement. I further understand that a violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

*Your signature on the Acceptable Use Agreement is legally binding and indicates that the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.*

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*Student's Signature*

*Date*

*If the user is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian also must sign this Agreement.*

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Acceptable Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and that the Oxford School District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. I also recognize, however, that it is impossible for the Oxford School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold the District responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is true and correct.

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print*

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_