

6141.321

Instruction

Acceptable Use of Technology

The Board endorses student use of technology and 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 Manchester 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 Manchester Public School Network are responsible for their use of the network and are expected to use it responsibly.

To ensure appropriate usage of technology, 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, using access controls and supervision by staff to monitor and/or restrict access to the electronic informational resources.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes, Section 53a-182b

Adopted: August 26, 1996 (as Policy 5145.3)

Revised: June 24, 2002 (as Policy 6141.321)

Revise: August 26, 2013 (as Policy 6141.321)

Administrative Guidelines

The Manchester Board of Education requires that students who use the Internet comply with the following standards, and any other usage guidelines created by the administration:

1. The use of the Internet is required as a part of each student's education. As the owner of the available hardware and software, wired and wireless network, the Manchester Public Schools may impose restrictions on access to the Internet.
 2. Use of the Internet must be in support of education and research consistent with the educational goals and objective of the Manchester Public Schools. Students must not waste or abuse school resources through unauthorized system use (e.g. playing online games, downloading music, watching video broadcasts, etc.).
 3. Electronic mail accounts shall be used only by the authorized owner of the account. Account owners are responsible for all activity under their account.
 4. Users are cautioned 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, but not limited to, 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 (e.g., Internet home page) without obtaining prior approval of school administration.
 8. Users should have no expectation of privacy while using the districts email accounts, computers, other electronic devices, or wired and wireless data networks.
 9. Students are not permitted to take, transmit or post photographic images/videos of any person on campus on public and/or social networking sites unless done as part of an authorized assignment by a teacher and permission of any/all individuals involved.
 10. The school District has the right to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection.
 11. To ensure appropriate network filters, students will only use the District's networks in school and will not attempt to bypass the network restrictions by using cellular networks.
- Each user must comply with all Board of Education policies, school rules and expectations concerning student conduct and communications when using Manchester Public School's hardware, information systems, or wired and wireless networks. Failure to adhere to the established guidelines may result in disciplinary.

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