

Branford Public Schools, Branford, Connecticut

Code of Conduct for Internet and Computer Network Access

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The purpose of providing Internet and computer network access in this district is to promote the exchange of information and ideas with the global educational community. All network use must be consistent with the policies and goals of this school district. Inappropriate use of district technology will result in the loss of technology use, disciplinary action, and/or referral to legal authorities. All Internet and other computer network users will be expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

All Internet and other computer network users will be expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- District technology is for the support of education only.
- Be polite. Messages should not be abusive to others. Take pride in communications. Check spelling and grammar.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language, symbols or pictures.
- Do not send messages that contain false, malicious, or misleading information, which may be injurious to a person or a person's property.
- Do not use access to make, distribute, or redistribute jokes, stories, or other material, which is based upon slurs or stereotypes relating to races, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Do not engage in activities that are prohibited under state or federal law. It is a violation to use the school's computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain unauthorized access. Any use which violates state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance, is strictly prohibited.
- Do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number. Do not use your real last name or any other information, which might allow a person to locate you. Do not arrange face-to-face meetings with someone you "meet" on the Internet. Regardless of age, you should never agree to meet a person you have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.

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- Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities and may result in the loss of user privileges.
- Do not assume that a sender of e-mail is giving his/her permission for you to forward or redistribute the message to third parties or to give his/her email address to third parties. This should only be done with permission or when you know that the individual would have no objection.
- Do not disguise the point of origin or transmission of electronic mail.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- Be considerate when sending attachments with e-mail (where this is permitted). Be sure that the file is not too large to be accommodated by the recipient's system and is in a format which the recipient can receive.
- Protect password confidentiality. Passwords **as are¹** not to be shared with others.
- The district technology is not to be used for playing multi-user or other network intensive games, commercial ventures, Internet relay chat lines, or downloading excessively large files.
- No charges for services, products or information are to be incurred without appropriate permission.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- Copyright and licensing laws and policies will not be violated.
- Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges.
- East district computer with Internet access will have a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). If a user finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the person designated by the school.

¹ Updated as of 06/03/2002 – typographical correction.