

Policy Information

Series 6000 - Instruction

Curriculum

Computer and Internet Use and, Internet Safety

Policy # 6154

The Board of Education encourages the use of the District's computer systems and the Internet (a global network made up of small contributing networks) and its services in order to support open research and education in the School District. The use of the District's computer systems and the Internet for other purposes, such as for-profit activity, financial gain, personal business or illegal activity is prohibited.

In order to assure the integrity of the computer systems in the School District, each user must agree to act responsibly and to comply with this policy and the regulations promulgated by the Superintendent of Schools regarding use of the systems and the Internet. Therefore, prior to using the District's systems and Internet access, each student and staff member must sign a user agreement. In the case of students, the student's parent or guardian must also sign the user agreement.

Notwithstanding the requirement for a signed user agreement, in the event that a state or local assessment must be administered using the District's technology resources, the student will be permitted to use the District's technology to take the assessment.

Internet access is provided with the understanding that the District cannot control the content available on the Internet. The vast majority of sites available provide a wealth of useful information to staff and students. The District cannot warrant the accuracy of all such sites. However, some sites may contain information that is offensive, defamatory or otherwise inappropriate for students. The District does not condone or permit the use of such materials in the school environment and makes good faith efforts to limit access by students to such inappropriate materials. Users who bring such material into the school environment may have their accounts suspended or terminated, may be subject to disciplinary action and may be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials where such activities are or are suspected of being illegal.

Internet Safety

The District, in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, requires all District computers to be equipped with filtering or blocking technology that blocks or filters Internet access by:

- Adults to visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography; and
- Minor to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors.^[1]

All newly acquired computers with Internet access will have this filtering or blocking technology installed on such computers prior to permitting their use by students. This shall be documented by the District in accordance with law. The District, however, does not guarantee that students will be prevented from accessing all inappropriate locations.

Parents, staff members and student must be aware that it is the responsibility of the user to monitor his/her own access to the internet and to use sound judgment. However, the District, through its staff members, technology and systems reviews, shall monitor online activities of students while in school, including but not limited to use of e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communication, "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors, and access to materials harmful to minors.

Any user who receives harassing, threatening or unwelcome communications shall immediately bring them to the attention of the teacher, the building principal or the Superintendent, as appropriate.

The District prohibits the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors by its officers, employees or agents.

The District shall provide age appropriate instruction to students regarding appropriate online behavior including interacting on social networks, websites and chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. Such instruction will be provided even if the District prohibits students from accessing social networking sites and chat rooms on District computers and resources.

Privacy

Computers and files stored on the District's system are the property of the District. Users acknowledge that school officials will periodically review online activities. Users further acknowledge that if there is reasonable suspicion of a user having violated this or any other Policy or Regulation, or any applicable law, the network administrator or appropriate school official may require access to his/her files, including correspondence and files, to review online activities. Any administrator reviewing such files in accordance with this Policy shall not be subject to any claims arising out of such review.

The use of the District's computer systems and access to the Internet, pursuant to this policy, is a privilege that may be revoked in the event of a breach of the policy and regulations by a user. Any user who is determined to have used the District's computer systems or the Internet inappropriately or who violates this policy and its regulations will have his/her use terminated, except under strict supervision. Further, a breach of the terms of this policy and regulations may be considered an act of insubordination which may result in discipline under the Student Code of Conduct for students and pursuant to law and applicable collectively negotiated agreement for staff members.

A breach of the terms of this Policy shall result in referral to appropriate law enforcement officials where the breach involves suspected illegal or criminal activities.

^[1] *The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:*

(a) Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;

(b) Depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

(c) Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

Policy Cross References:

» 4156 - Computer and Internet Use, Internet Safety

Computer and Internet Use

Regulation Info 6154R

To provide an intellectual atmosphere that includes access to knowledge and information, Lakeland Central School District believes that all students and users (persons using the computer technology available in the schools) should have the opportunity to develop skills in using computer technology. The technology of the computer network is defined as all computers, both hardware and software, the LAN (local area network), furniture, and all transmitted information. Transmitted information includes but is not limited to: electronic mail, web browsing, file transfer protocol, and any information retrieved via the Internet.

The internet is a network of thousands of computers around the world which allows Users to send, receive, a publish information in various ways, including e-mail, newsgroups, and the World Wide Web. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be. of educational value in the context of the school setting. Access to such material is actively discouraged at Lakeland; but on a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and a determined user may discover controversial information. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available .on the Internet far outweighs the risks inherent in the procurement of questionable material that is not consistent with the District's educational goals and philosophy.

The network is a resource that is shared by the entire Lakeland community. Network and school administrators reserve the right to access, inspect, and delete the contents of student and/or user e-mail and files upon reasonable suspicion that the student and/or user has violated the acceptable use policy, regulations and law.

Use of technology at Lakeland is a privilege extended to individuals who wish to enhance their learning experiences. Students and users will broaden their global horizons and discover a vast scope of information and experience. Learning through interaction with the technology will furnish a student and user with many of the skills required by our evolving business and educational community. Each student and user has the privilege to make use of authorized hardware and software found on school grounds in order to facilitate their academic growth.

Transmission and viewing of any material in violation of any federal or state law or regulation is expressly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized use of copyrighted material, pornographic, obscene materials, materials advocating discrimination, or materials protected by trade secret or that are classified government information. All school regulations apply to the use of the network to support the educational goals of this institution. When the school incurs a cost due to student and/or user negligence or misuse, the student and/or user will be responsible for the cost.

Students and users of Computer Technology in the Lakeland School District are expected to comply with the following procedures:

1. Students and users will follow the District's policy and regulations on Computer/Internet use and above acceptable use statement.
2. Education and curriculum-related research is the first priority of Internet and network use in the Lakeland Central School district; all other use is secondary.

3. Students and users may not install, modify or delete soft on individual workstations or on the network file server.
4. Students and users will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means.
5. No student or user is allowed to access any other student's or user's files. No student or user may allow another person to use his/her files or user account number,
6. Plagiarism of materials found on the network constitutes a violation of the law and policy.
7. All copyright laws, including those governing the copying of computer software, must be observed.
8. The use of the computer to transmit or view hate mail, harassment, profanity, obscenity, pornography, discriminatory remarks, misrepresentation, impersonation, and other anti-social behaviors are prohibited on the Internet and the network.
9. For the student's and user's safety, personal information such as full name, home address, phone number, age, gender, etc., must not be revealed about the user or others over the Internet.
10. Any use of the Internet or the network for political lobbying, advertising, commercial or for-profit purposes or any illegal purpose is prohibited.
11. Students and users must understand that they have the responsibility for their own actions while using the Internet or the network.
12. Students without parental permission to use the internet are prohibited from teaming up with those who have permission to use the Internet.

**LAKELAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
RULES AND CODE OF ETHICS AGREEMENT
FOR NETWORK, INTERNET AND EMAIL USERS**

Section 1: To be signed by student

I understand that the Lakeland Central School District reserves the right to monitor all computer, Internet and Email use to ensure compliance with District policy, regulations, and law. I understand that violations of the Acceptable Use Policy will be considered as insubordination and will be dealt with seriously. Violators' risk:

- Losing computer privileges on a temporary or permanent basis; and/or
- Disciplinary action; and/or
- Academic sanctions for academic infractions (plagiarism); and/or
- Prosecution for violation of local, state and federal laws

I have read the Lakeland School District Acceptable Use Policy for Computer and Internet Use and agree to abide by its terms. I further understand that violation of the policy regulations may lead to my access privileges being revoked, school disciplinary action, academic sanctions, and/or appropriate legal action.

Student's Name
(Please Print) _____ **Grade** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Section 2: To be signed by parent or guardian

As the parent or guardian of (please print your son/daughter's name _____)
I have read and discussed with my son/daughter the Acceptable Use Policy for the Lakeland Central School district Computer and Internet use. I recognize that it is impossible for the School district to restrict access to all controversial materials; and I will not hold the district, its officers, employees, or the Internet provider, responsible for materials acquired on the network.

I hereby give permission for my child to have user access to the following (please initial):

_____ Network/Internet

I realize that under the law, I may be held financially responsible for the willful, malicious, or unlawful damage of property by my minor child.

Parent's Name (Please print) _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Copy to student's folder and Computer Facilitator.