

B. Instructional Resources and Materials

2. Computer Use and Access to the Internet

a. Narragansett School System Responsible Use Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to establish a policy for the responsible use of the computer network and associated technology as a tool for learning in the school system of Narragansett, Rhode Island. In summary, the policy affirms that the employees and students may use the computer network to do any action or receive and/or communicate any language that the employee or student could not do in person. Any act or work prohibited by federal, state, and/or local law including the Narragansett School System (NSS) is forbidden by this policy. Additionally, the policy reflects that there is no expectation of privacy in the use of email or Internet communications when such communications occur over NSS provided equipment by NSS employees, student, or others.

Introduction:

Internet access and technology is widely available to students and teachers in the school system. Before access may be obtained, the attached documents must be read carefully and the consent form must be signed and returned to the school.

The District is pleased to bring this access to the school system and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers, staff and students is to promote educational excellence in our schools by facilitating resources sharing, innovation, communication, and collaboration thus augmenting the existing curriculum resources.

The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards children should follow when using these resources. It is our expectation that students will access the Internet only as directed by NSS teachers. Parents/guardians should discuss these guidelines with their child.

Technology Responsible Use:

1. The sole purpose of the computer based communications network is to support research, education, and administrative activities by providing access to unique resources and an opportunity for collaborative work. Each individual's activity on the network must be in support of education and academic research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Narragansett School System.
2. The use of the Narragansett School System computers is a privilege which shall be revoked at any time for inappropriate conduct. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, the placing of unlawful information on or through the computer system and the use of obscene, abusive, or otherwise objectionable language or images in either public or private files or messages. The administration of each school will be the sole arbiter of what constitutes obscene or objectionable language or images.
3. All users are given accounts upon entry into Narragansett School System. Any user account given is intended for the sole use of that user only. Each user is responsible for

Computer Network Acceptable Use (continued)

- the security of their system. Passwords should not be shared. If a user shared a password with another, that user will be held accountable.
4. All users must behave in a legal and ethical manner at all times. Users agree to adhere to all federal copyright rules. Any costs, liability, or damages caused by the way the user chooses to use his or her network access is the sole responsibility of the computer user.
 5. Each user must abide by such rules and regulations of systems usage as may be announced from time to time by school personnel. Each school in the Narragansett School System reserves the right to add to or to change network guidelines for safety or educational reasons without notice.
 6. Each school in the Narragansett School System reserves the right to any material stored on school computers, and will edit or remove any material which school administration, in its sole discretion, believes may be unlawful, obscene, pornographic, abusive, or otherwise objectionable. The users will not use school computers to obtain, view, download, or otherwise gain access to such materials. Note that electronic mail (email) is also 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.
 7. The computers and the computer services owned by the Narragansett School System are intended for educational use of its patrons, and any commercial or other unauthorized use of those services and materials, in any form, is expressly forbidden.
 8. Use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the policies, rules, and guidelines of the Narragansett School System.
 9. The Narragansett School System makes no warranties (expressed or implied) with respect to network services or the content of any advice or information received from the network system.
 10. Computer users will not give any personal information about themselves or any other student or teacher including usernames, passwords, pictures, telephone numbers, addresses, or locations unless direct approval has been given by the school administration.
 11. A policy of Internet safety is being enforced, which includes measures to block or filter Internet access for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions including obscene, pornographic, or materials that are harmful to minors with respect to use of computers with Internet access. The school district assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or costs incurred by users while using school district computers, devices, or the school network.
 12. Penalties for inappropriate computer use and/or the damaging of the school system's computers and computer network will be strictly enforced up to, and including, expulsion from school, financial restitution, or any other actions or restrictions as deemed appropriate by the Narragansett School System. The school district assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or costs incurred by users while using school district computers, devices, or the school network.
 13. Unauthorized Equipment - Users may not attach unauthorized equipment, including personal laptops, tablets, and handheld devices, to the district network without permission from the school administration or Narragansett School System Technology Department.

Computer Network Acceptable Use (continued)

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures including Internet filters shall be used to block or filter the Internet or other forms of electronic communications and access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or to child pornography or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Narragansett School’s online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act and NSS policy, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes:

- a. unauthorized access, including so-called hacking, attempts to avoid school filters and other unlawful activities
- b. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
- c. Violating copyrights, software licenses, or Plagiarism.

Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Narragansett School’s staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of Director of Technology or designated representatives. The school district will educate all students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms; and cyberbullying awareness and response.



Narragansett School System Responsible Use Policy

Student

I will follow the Narragansett School System Responsible Use Policy by being a responsible computer network user in my school.

Student Name: (please print)

Grade Level: _____

Advisory: _____

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent or Guardian

I recognize that it is impossible for the Narragansett School System to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold the school system responsible for materials acquired on the computer network. I hereby give permission for my child to use school operated computer networks, including the Internet. I accept legal responsibility for my child and acknowledge the principles and rules of access to such a resource, as outlined in this policy. I agree to bind my child to such terms of access.

Parent or Guardian Name: (please print)

Parent or Guardian Signature:

Date:

A copy of this full policy is available at <http://www.narragansett.k12.ri.us/Policy/Index.htm>

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Narragansett School System

Narragansett, Rhode Island