

Bangor School Department Student Computer and Internet Use Rules

Policy: IJNDB-R

These rules implement School Department Policy IJNDB – Student Computer and Internet Use. The rules are intended to provide general guidelines and examples of prohibited use but do not attempt to state all required or prohibited activities by users. Failure to comply with School Committee Policy IJNDB and these rules may result in a loss of computer and Internet access privileges, disciplinary action and/or legal action.

A. Computer Use is a Privilege, Not a Right

Student use of School Department computers, networks and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable use or activities may result in suspension or cancellation of privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

The building principal shall have final authority to decide whether a student's privileges will be denied or revoked.

B. Acceptable Use

Student access to School Department computers, networks and Internet services is provided for educational purposes and research consistent with the School Department's educational mission, curriculum and instructional goals.

The same rules and expectations govern student use of computers as apply to other student conduct and communications.

Students are further expected to comply with these rules and all specific instructions from the teacher or other supervising staff members or volunteers when accessing the School Department computers, networks and Internet services.

C. Prohibited Use

The user is responsible for his/her actions and activities involving the school computers, networks and Internet services and for his/her computer files, passwords and accounts. Examples of unacceptable uses that are expressly prohibited include but are not limited to the following:

1. Accessing Inappropriate Materials - Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, forwarding, downloading, scanning or displaying materials

that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing and/or illegal;

2. Illegal Activities - Using School Department computers, networks and Internet services for any illegal activity or activity that violates other School Department policies, procedures and/or school rules;

3. Violating Copyrights - Copying or downloading copyrighted materials without the owner's permission;

4. Plagiarism - Representing as one's own work any materials obtained on the Internet (such as term papers, articles, etc.). When Internet sources are used in student work, the author, publisher and web site must be identified;

5. Copying or Installing Software – Copying, downloading or installing software on School Department computers without the expressed authorization of the computer system administrator;

6. Non-School Related Uses - Using School Department computers, networks and Internet services for non-school related purposes such as private financial gain, commercial, advertising or solicitation purposes, or for any other personal use;

7. Misuse of Passwords and Unauthorized Access - Sharing passwords, using other users' passwords and/or accessing other users' accounts;

8. Malicious Use or Vandalism - Any malicious use, disruption or harm to School Department computers, networks and Internet services, including but not limited to hacking activities, breaching of security features, and creating, uploading or spreading computer viruses;

9. Unauthorized Access to Chat Rooms, Instant Messaging or Newsgroups - Accessing chat rooms, instant messaging or newsgroups without specific authorization from the supervising teacher; and

10. Negatively Impacting Network Capacity – Engaging in activities that cause unreasonable demand on network capacity or disruption of system operation including but not limited to downloading large files without permission from the computer system administrator.

D. No Expectation of Privacy

The School Department retains control, custody and supervision of all computers, networks and Internet services owned or leased by the School Department. The School Department reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activities by students. Students

have no expectation of privacy in their use of school computers, networks and Internet services including e-mail and stored files.

E. Compensation for Losses, Costs and/or Damages

The student and/or the student's parent/guardian shall be responsible for compensating the School Department for any losses, costs or damages incurred by the School Department related to violations of policy IJNDB and/or these rules, including investigation of violations.

F. The School Department Assumes No Responsibility for Unauthorized Charges, Costs or Illegal Use

The School Department assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges made by students including but not limited to credit card charges, long distance telephone charges, equipment and line costs, or for any illegal use of its computers such as copyright violations.

G. Student Security

A student shall not reveal his/her full name, address or telephone number on the Internet without prior permission from the supervising teacher. Students should never meet people they have contacted through the Internet without parental permission. Students should inform their supervising teacher if they access information or messages that are dangerous, inappropriate or make them feel uncomfortable in anyway.

H. System Security and Operation

The security of School Department computers, networks and Internet services is a high priority. Any user who identifies a security problem must notify the computer system administrator or a building principal. The user shall not demonstrate the problem to others. Any user who attempts to cause a breach of system security shall have his/her privileges revoked and may be subject to additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

I. Student [MLTI] Laptop Computers

Student [MLTI] laptop computers are generally intended for in-school use. District and building level procedures will be adopted and followed in the event that the computer laptop programs evolve to the point where home use becomes an option. In the absence of these rules and procedures, students will not take laptops home. Computer laptop procedures for home use will include clearly defined provisions for insuring the equipment, expectations for appropriate use, and

orientation sessions for parents and students.

Cross Reference: IJNDB - Student Computer and Internet Use