Lisbon School District

15 Newent Road
Lisbon, CT 06351

Instruction

Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet

The Internet, a global electronic information infrastructure, is a network of networks used by educators, businesses, the government, and numerous organizations. The Board of Education believes that the Internet is a valuable tool that should be used in schools to educate and inform students, much like books magazines, video, CD-ROM and other informational sources. The Board endorses student use of 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 Lisbon 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 Lisbon Public School Network are responsible for their use of the network and are expected to use it responsibly.

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

In recognition of the potential for improper use of the Internet in the educational setting, the Board requires that students who use the Internet comply with the following policies, as well as comply with any guidelines for use promulgated by the administration:

1.   The use of the Internet is a privilege. As the owner of both the hardware and software that is available, the Lisbon Public Schools may withhold this privilege. Failure to adhere to the established guidelines may result in the loss of Internet access, disciplinary action and/or referral to legal authorities.

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Instruction

Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet (cont)

2.   Use of the Internet must be in support of education and research consistent with the educational goals and objective of the Lisbon Public Schools.

3.   E-mail may be used for educational or administrative purposes. Electronic mail is not private. Those who operate the system have access to all mail which may be monitored at any time by designated staff to ensure appropriate use for instructional and administrative purposes.

4.   Users must 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 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 (i.e., Internet home page) without obtaining prior approval of school administration.

8.   Each user will abide by the generally accepted rules of etiquette and applicable school policies, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

  •   Use appropriate language. Do not write or send abusive messages or those which contain vulgarities.

  •   Chain letters and pyramid schemes (chain letters with money) are illegal.

  •   Bulk posing to individuals or groups to overload the system (i.e., "spamming") is prohibited

To ensure that only authorized students who understand the bounds of permitted use will have access to the Internet, Lisbon Public Schools must obtain the written permission of a student's parent or legal guardian before the student may access the Internet.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
                       51a-182b. Harassment in the first degree: Class D felony. (as amended by PA 95-143)
                       20 U.S.C. Section 6777, No Child Left Behind Act
                       20 U.S.C. 254 Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000
                       47 U.S.C. Children's Online Protection Act of 1998

Policy Adopted – 08/25/08 – Lisbon Board of Education

Lisbon Board of Education

Lisbon School District

15 Newent Road
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LISBON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

_____,
month/day/year

Dear Parents/Guardians:

New technologies are shifting the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred. These changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The Lisbon Public School System offers students access to the electronic information highway and computer service networks such as electronic mail and the Internet in accordance with Board Policy 6141.321 (attached).

Along with access to computers and people all over the world comes the availability of materials that may not be considered appropriate in the classroom. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials. Ultimately, the school staff, parents, and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying standards that students should follow when using media and information sources.

The Board of Education supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow their child(ren) to access the Internet. Please take the time to sit down with your child(ren) to read and discuss the *Rules and Codes of Ethics for School Computer Users*. Then, sign and return the statement(s) provided as soon as possible.

Rules and Codes of Ethics for School Computer Users

Internet access is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others in relation to school work. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. Access is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use. Decisions are final. The system administrators may deny, revoke, or suspend specific user access at any time.

Individual users are responsible for their use of the network. District guidelines are as follows:

- Student users, before accessing the Internet, must always get permission and follow instructions.

- Student users must sign in each time they use the network.

- Student users must be supervised when accessing the Internet.

- Student users will use computer resources for educational purposes and in compliance with instructional activities.

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The use of the computer and the Internet must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the academic expectations of the Lisbon Public School System. Transmission of any material in violation of U.S. or State regulations including copyrighted, threatening, or obscene material is prohibited. Use for commercial activities by for-profit organizations, product promotion, political lobbying, or illegal activities is strictly prohibited.

The user is also expected to abide by the following rules of etiquette:

- Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages.

- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.

- Transmission of obscene material is prohibited. Sending or receiving offensive messages or pictures from any source will result in immediate suspension of privileges.

- Do not reveal your or other students' personal addresses or telephone numbers.

- Do not communicate any credit card numbers, bank account numbers, or any other financial information.

- Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Inappropriate messages can result in suspension of privileges.

- Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by others.

- Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user will not be tolerated. Any questionable action will result in the suspension of privileges.

Very truly yours,

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Superintendent of Schools

NOTE: Violation of any of the above-mentioned rules and regulations will result in a loss of access and may result in other disciplinary or legal actions.

Lisbon Board of Education