

Mansfield Board of Education Policy FECCB
Administrative Regulations Regarding
Student Use Of The District's Computer Systems

Mansfield Board of Education Policy

CODE: FECCB

CLASSIFICATION: Equipment

STUDENT Use Of The DISTRICT'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Computers, computer networks, Internet access, and E-mail are effective and important technological resources in today's educational environment. The Board of Education has installed computers, a computer network, including Internet access and an Email system (referred to collectively as "the computer systems"), in order to enhance both the educational opportunities for our students and the business operations of the district.

These computer systems are business and educational tools. As such, they are made available to students in the district for education related uses only. The Administration shall develop regulations setting forth procedures to be used by the Administration in an effort to ensure that such computer systems are used by students only for appropriate education related purposes.

ADOPTED: June 24, 1999

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Introduction

We are pleased to offer students access to the district's computers and computer networks, including access to electronic mail (Email) and the Internet (which will be referred to collectively as "computer systems".) Access to the school's computer systems will enable students to explore libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with others. Such access is provided solely for education-related purposes. Use of the district's computer systems will be allowed only for students who act in a considerate and responsible manner in using such systems.

The Board of Education and the Administration believe in the educational value of such computer systems and recognize their potential to support our curriculum by expanding resources available for staff and student use. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

These computer systems are expensive to purchase, install and maintain. As the property of the district these computer systems must be carefully handled and their integrity preserved for the benefit of all. Therefore, *access to the computer systems is a privilege, and not a right.* Students will be required to adhere to a set of policies and procedures, as set forth in detail below. Violations may lead to withdrawal of the access privilege.

Monitoring

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer systems just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the computer systems are often public in nature and general school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and will act in a responsible and legal manner, at all times in accordance with district standards, and state and federal laws.

It is important that students and parents understand that the district, *as the owner of the computer systems, intends to monitor and review* the use of these computer systems in an effort to ensure that users engage only in appropriate uses. The district will monitor and review in a limited fashion, but will do so as needed to maximize utilization of the computer systems for educational purposes.

As part of monitoring and reviewing, the district will retain the capacity to bypass any individual password of a student or other user. *The system's security aspects, such as personal passwords and the message delete function for Email, can be bypassed for these purposes.* The district's ability to monitor and review is not restricted or neutralized by these devices. The monitor and review process also includes oversight of Internet site access and of document downloading and printing.

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Therefore, all users must be aware that *they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of these computer systems.*

Student Conduct

Except as provided below, students are permitted to use the district's computer systems for legitimate educational purposes *only*.

Conduct including, but not limited to, the following is prohibited with respect to use of these computer systems.

- ◆ Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime, pursuant to Public Act 95-143, and other laws);
- ◆ Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to computer systems;
- ◆ Damaging computers, computer files, computer systems or computer networks;
- ◆ Using another person's password under any circumstances;
- ◆ Trespassing in or tampering with any other person's folders, work or files;
- ◆ Sending any message that breaches the district's confidentiality requirements, or the confidentiality of students;
- ◆ Sending any copyrighted material over the system.

In addition, as noted above, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law or by Board policy or school rules or regulations, it must not occur in the use of these computer systems.

Misuse of the computer systems, or violations of these policies, may result in loss of access to such computer systems as well as other disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion, depending on the specific conduct.

Anyone who is aware of problems with, or misuse of these computer systems, should report this to his or her teacher or principal immediately. Most importantly, the Board and the Administration urge *any* student who receives *any* harassing, threatening, intimidating or other improper message through the computer system to report this immediately. It is the Board's policy that no student should be required to tolerate such treatment, regardless of the identity of the sender of the message. *Please report these events!*

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