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## **Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources & the Internet**

### **1. POLICY**

#### **Statement of Purpose**

This policy outlines the proper and acceptable use of all aspects of electronic resources in the Barre Supervisory Union (BSU). Electronic resources enhance school curriculum and improve teaching and learning. It is important to remember that use of those resources is a privilege and carries with it responsibilities for all involved.

#### **Responsibilities**

All users will assume full liability – legal, financial or otherwise- for their use of electronic resources on school grounds or while engaged in school-approved activities.

#### **Privacy**

Authorized BSU IT staff may inspect any materials created on, transmitted by, or stored on BSU electronic resources for any reason at any time without prior notice. BSU staff has the right to remove inappropriate materials and make referrals to school administration for disciplinary action. There should be no expectation of privacy.

#### **Acceptable Uses**

The BSU provides information technology for **educational purposes only**. Information technology extends the classroom, and all school rules and policies apply.

- a) All users must abide by rules of network etiquette. They should be polite and considerate and use appropriate behavior, language and graphics at all times.
- b) Teachers may allow individuals to use email and web tools for strictly educational purposes. The use of blogs, podcasts, other web tools and social networking sites is considered an extension of the classroom. Any speech or graphics that are considered inappropriate in the classroom are also inappropriate in all online uses. If the teacher wants to use resources normally blocked by the BSU, that teacher may apply to the BSU Director of Technology for temporary or extended access.
- c) Personal electronic devices will not be connected directly or via BSU wireless access point to the BSU network, without the permission of the BSU Director of Technology. Such requests will be granted only under special circumstances.
- d) No personal addresses, phone numbers, or last names of students will be given out. No identifiable photographs of students may be published electronically without prior written parental consent.

#### **Copyright and Fair Use**

All users will respect copyright laws for print, media, and software licensing agreements and will adhere to accepted standards for academic integrity.

### **Acceptable Use Policy Violations**

Involvement in the following or similar activities will result in disciplinary action.

- a) Intentional circumvention of the firewall or other protection measures. This includes internet access by students through any means other than the BSU firewall while on BSU grounds.
- b) Hacking, including accessing, storing, transferring, altering, deleting, installing or downloading files without authorization.
- c) Use that causes harm to others or damage to property.
- d) Use that does not respect the rights of others, including threatening, obscene, harassing, bullying, hate-speech, or abusive language or images.
- e) Use for commercial ventures.
- f) Use that invades or violates the privacy of another user.
- g) Misrepresenting oneself as another user.
- h) Involvement in any activity prohibited by law. Such activity is considered a crime under state and/or federal law and may be referred to the appropriate legal authorities.

### **Disciplinary Action May Include**

- a) Cancellation or restriction of access privileges.
- b) Additional disciplinary action, as determined by school administration.
- c) Legal action.
- d) In the case of staff, termination of employment.

### **Internet Safety**

As required by statute, the BSU filters Internet content. The BSU monitors users' online activities through direct observation and technological means. The BSU or its member schools are not liable for online content.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION**

The BSU Director of Technology will coordinate with building administrators to issue rules and procedures for the implementation of the above policy.

*Legal References:*      *20 U.S.C. § 6777 et seq. (Enhancing Education Through Technology Act)*  
                                 *47 U.S.C. §254 (Children's Internet Protection Act)*  
                                 *47 CFR §54.520 (CIPA Certifications)*

Original Policy Adopted - June, 2000  
Revision I - May, 2001  
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