

**Section: Instruction**

**Subject: Acceptable Use of Computers and Technology (Students)**

**P-6141.321**

**Board Policy  
Milford Public Schools  
Milford, CT**

**Introduction**

The Internet/Intranet is a global electronic information infrastructure used by educators, businesses, the government, and numerous organizations. Intranet is a private Internet operating on the school District's internal network. The Board of Education believes that the Internet/Intranet 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/Intranet and other District technology, including the use of social networks, for learning and research which enhances information available through other mediums. Use of District technology includes participation in distance learning activities, asking questions of and consulting with experts, communicating with other students and individuals, and locating material to meet the educational needs of the students of the Milford Public Schools.

**Safe Usage and Monitoring of District Technology**

While the Internet/Intranet can provide students with a vast array of educational and informational resources, it can also be a window through which students can 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. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that students are not accessing such material. These efforts will include filtering software and various methods of monitoring including, but not limited to, teacher supervision and electronic monitoring.

It is important to give student 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/Intranet would be impossible. While teachers and other staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise and monitor student use of District technology, they must have student and parent cooperation in exercising and promoting responsible use. Students will be educated about appropriate and safe online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response.

**Acceptable Use Agreement**

Individual users of the Milford Public School Network are responsible for their use of the network and other District technology and are expected to use it responsibly and lawfully. Students are to utilize the District's computers, networks, and Internet services and other District technology for school-related purposes only. This includes the use of social networks.

Each student authorized to access the school District's computers, networks and Internet services or other District technology is required to sign an Acceptable Use of Computers and Technology

Agreement each school year acknowledging that he/she has read this policy and the accompanying regulations and accepts it in its entirety, including the provisions regarding monitoring and review of student technology activity. Both the student and their parent/guardian will be required to sign this agreement. If the student is 18 or older, a parent/guardian signature is not required. Students who use District computers, networks and Internet services for personal or non-academic purposes will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with this policy, its regulations, District student codes of conduct, and state law.

### **Prohibitions**

Inappropriate communications or other unacceptable uses or abuses of all District technology, including all hardware/software, all electronic files/communications stored on or transmitted on District computers are prohibited. Specifically prohibited is **any illegal use, or** use that is a **violation of Board policies, regulations, or school rules** including, but not limited to, those prohibiting harassment, discrimination, bullying, defamation, violence, threatening, infringement of copyright or trademark laws, use involving obscene or pornographic materials or use that harms the reputation of the school District or its employees or disrupts the educational environment.

Prohibited also is student use of District technology for Internet **social networking if** such use is **not directed by a teacher or school administrator** in support of planned and approved learning activities. Students are strictly prohibited from using District technology to access personal social networking sites at any time. Students are also prohibited from using their personal electronic devices to view, access or use personal social networking sites during the school day. The District will not be liable for information/comments posted by students on District social media websites that violate District policy, regulations, school rules or state or federal law. The opinions expressed therein by students shall not be construed to represent the opinion of the school District. The District will not be liable for any information/comments posted by students to personal social networking sites. The District will not be responsible for any damages suffered by any user in the use of and/or access to District computers, networks, or the Internet and will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations resulting from such use or access.

### **Discipline Resulting from Violations**

The use of the District's computer systems, networks, the Internet or other District technology is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to follow Board of Education policy and accompanying regulations at all times when using District computers, networks, the Internet or other District technology. Failure to follow this policy and its regulations may lead to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion as well as the loss of privileges to use technology in one or more locations within the school for specific periods of time. Illegal activity will also be reported to appropriate authorities. The Superintendent or his/her designee reserves the right to eliminate use of the District's computer systems or other District technology by any student at any time.

### **School System Property**

All District computers including all hardware/software, all electronic files/communications stored on or transmitted on District computers and other District technology are the property of the District and remain under the control, custody and supervision of the Milford Public Schools. The Milford Public Schools reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store, without prior notice information about the content and usage of District computers, networks, Internet/Intranet and all

other District technology used by students. Students should have no expectation of privacy in their use of District computers, networks or other technology.

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to develop regulations for acceptable and safe use of computers and technology including, but not limited to electronic email, instant messaging, and use of social networking sites, chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and accompanying regulations and for advising the Board of the need for any future amendments or revisions to the policy/regulations.

(cf.6141.321 – Student Use of the Internet)

(cf.6141.322 – Web Sites/Pages)

#### Legal References:

C.G.S. §§1-200-1-241 inclusive. Freedom of Information  
C.G.S. § 31-48d Employers engaged in electronic monitoring required to give prior notice to employees. Exceptions. Civil penalty.  
53a-182 Disorderly conduct; Class C misdemeanor  
C.G.S. § 53a-182b Harassment in the first degree.  
C.G.S. § 53a-183 Harassment in the second degree  
53a-250 et seq. re computer-related offenses  
C.G.S. § 10-222d policy on bullying behavior, as amended by PA 11-232  
C.G.S. § 10-233c suspension of pupils  
C.G.S. § 10-233d expulsion of pupils  
C.G.S. § 10-53a-196g Possessing child pornography: affirmative defenses  
28 USC 2510 through 2520, Electronics Communication Privacy Act,  
20 USC 6751-6777 Enhancing Education Through Technology Act,  
No Child Left Behind Act, Title II, Part D 6777 Internet Safety  
20 U.S.C. 254 Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000  
47 USC 254 Universal service discounts (E-rate\_  
Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47 54.520 Internet safety policy  
Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act § 215; 47 U.S.C. §  
254(h)(5)(B)  
(cf 6141.321 Student Use of the Internet)  
(cf 6141.322 Web Site/Pages)

Board of Education Policy Adopted: September 12, 2011

1<sup>st</sup> Revision Adopted: November 14, 2011