

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY of the PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the manner in which information is accessed, communicated and transferred that those changes will alter the nature of teaching and learning. Access to telecommunications will allow pupils to explore databases, libraries, and Internet sites, bulletin boards and the like while exchanging information with individuals throughout the world. The Board supports access by pupils to information sources but reserves the rights to limit in school use to materials appropriate to educational purposes. The Board directs the Superintendent to effect training of teaching staff members in skills appropriate to analyzing and evaluating such resources as to appropriateness for educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes that telecommunications will allow pupils access to information sources that have not been prescreened by educators using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer networks and declares unethical, unacceptable or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access Privileges and/or instituting legal action.

The Board provides access to computer network/computers for educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate Pupil access to the computer network/computers at any time, for any reason. The Board retains the right to have district Personnel monitor network activity, in any form necessary, to maintain the integrity of the network and insure its proper use.

Standards for Use of Computer Networks

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the Pequannock Schools.

We are very pleased to bring this access to Pequannock School District and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

1. Electronic communications with people all over the world;
2. Information and news from NASA as well as the opportunity to correspond with the scientists at NASA and other research institutions;
3. Public domain software and shareware of all types;
4. Discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from Chinese culture to the environment to music to politics;
5. Access to many University Library catalogs, the Library of Congress and ERIC, a large collection of relevant information to educators and students.
6. Graphical access to the World Wide Web, the newest and most exciting access tool on the Internet.

With this comprehensive access also comes the availability of materials that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The Pequannock School District has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information.

We (Pequannock School District) firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of the district. We recognize that, for certain courses or projects, restricting access may impede the attainment of objectives. Staff members may request that any restrictions be lifted for such cases; these requests will be considered individually by the school administration.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users that must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Pequannock School District user violates any of their provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. Violation of these regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. The signatures at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understands their significance.

Internet - Terms and Conditions of use

A. Acceptable Use

The purpose of NSFNET, which is the backbone network to the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and opportunity for Collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Pequannock School District. Use of other organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulations is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted materials threatening or obscene materials protected by trade secret.

B. Privileges

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges. (Each student or teacher who receives an account will be part of a discussion with the Pequannock School District staff member pertaining to the proper use of the network.) The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also the system administrators may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of the Pequannock School District may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.

C. Network Etiquette

The pupils are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

These include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Be polite
2. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language; Illegal activities are strictly forbidden

3. Do not reveal personal addresses or phone numbers of students or colleagues
4. Note the electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of Illegal activity may be reported to the authorities
5. Do not use the network in such a way that it would disrupt the use of the network by other users
6. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.

D. Responsibility

The Pequannock School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied for the service it is providing. The Pequannock School District will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions, etc. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk, The Pequannock School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

E. Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you think you have identified a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a system administrator or your District Internet Coordinator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from the individual.

Attempts to log on to the Internet as system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.

F. Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data or another user, Internet, or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to NSFNET Internet backbone. This includes but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

Consent Requirement (Click here for a copy online)

No pupil shall be allowed to use the computer network and the Internet unless they shall have filed with the Principal a consent form signed by the pupil and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline, which includes but is not limited to:

1. Use of the network only under direct supervision
2. Suspension of network privileges
3. Revocation of network privileges
4. Suspension of computer privileges

5. Revocation of computer privileges
6. Suspension from school
7. Expulsion from school; and/or
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities

PEQUANNOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT
INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

STUDENT OR USER:

I understand and will abide by the Internet Acceptable Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action.

Student/User Signature:

Date:

Student/User's Full Name (Please Print):

PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Internet Acceptable Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. The Pequannock School District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the Pequannock School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in the school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

I HAVE READ THE INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT - Please Circle **ONE** answer

I give permission for my child to access the Internet.

I **DO NOT** wish my child to access the Internet.

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian's Name (Please Print):

SPONSORING TEACHER: (must be signed if applicant is a student)

I have read the Internet Acceptable Use Agreement and agree to promote THIS agreement with the student. Because the student may use the network for individual work or in the context of another class, I cannot be held responsible for the student's use of the network. As the sponsoring teacher, I do agree to instruct the student on acceptable use of the network and proper network etiquette.

Teacher's Signature:

Date:

Teacher's Name (Please Print):

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