

Board Policy Document

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**STUDENT PERSONNEL**

***Series 500***

**Policy Title:**           **Computer Networks Acceptable Use Policy**

**Code Number:**       **581.12**

Sioux City Community School District Policy on District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

**General**

The Sioux City Community School District provides electronic network communications for educational use by students. The purpose is to assist the District in meeting its educational mission, goals and objectives. Board Policy 603.10 requires that all materials be consistent with District-adopted guides, supporting and enriching the curriculum while taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students. The communications include e-mail and the Internet. The Network shall be used for curriculum support purposes only. It is the policy of the District that all computer services shall be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner.

No person shall access the District network with non-District hardware without approval of the Technology Department. Non-District hardware includes, but is not limited to, personal computers (laptop or desktop), wireless access devices and handheld devices.

The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays or other service interruptions caused by either the district or users own negligence, errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the District network is at the users own risk.

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Users should not expect that files stored on the Network or school-based computers will be private. Electronic messages and files may be reviewed to maintain system integrity and to insure that users are acting responsibly.

**E-Mail**

Students will not have access to District E-mail unless there is a curriculum-based need as determined by the District. Nor, will they access their home email via the Internet at school.

**Internet**

The Board believes that the Internet can be a valuable educational and productive tool that enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources. However, families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain information that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive.

State and Federal mandates require schools to restrict access to certain information on the Internet, and the District will strive to provide a safe, quality Internet experience for both students and staff. District employees will do their best to monitor student Internet activity and to blend thoughtful use of the Internet into the curriculum. Parents, however, should be aware that in spite of District safeguards, a student may still find ways, intentionally or unintentionally, to access inappropriate material. Ultimately, the District sets the standards for appropriate use of the Internet at school.

The Board believes that all network services (e.g., computers, E-mail, Internet access) are a valuable part of the total program in that they promote educational excellence. At the same time, the Board believes that access to these services entails responsibility and that all computer services shall be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. General school rules for behavior apply.

The following uses of school-provided Network access are not permitted:

- a. To access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material;
- b. To transmit obscene, abusive, sexually explicit, or threatening language;
- c. To violate any local, state, or federal statute;

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- d. To vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another individual or organization;
- e. To access another individual's materials, information or files without permission;
- f. To access "personal" e-mail accounts;
- g. To access internet gaming sites;
- h. To use instant messaging;
- i. To use streaming audio or video sites unless approved for curriculum use;
- j. To use non-District hardware or devices on the District network;
- k. To connect to wireless Access Points not supported by the District;
- l. To install any unauthorized software;
- m. To install or remove any computer hardware components from District computers (e.g. memory, optical drives, etc.);
- n. To violate copyright or otherwise use the intellectual property of another individual or organization without permission; and
- o. To engage any other inappropriate uses as determined by the District.

**Student Procedure for the Non-Directed Use of the Internet**

All students will be granted unrestricted use of the District's link to the Internet unless the District is notified by a parent or guardian as to the contrary. Annually, if a parent or guardian of a student wants to opt out of the independent use of the Internet, they will submit an Internet Non-Authorization form signed by the parent/guardian notifying building administrators that the parent/guardian *does not* want his or her child to *independently* use the Internet. These forms will be kept in the office with the Student Permanent Record, and building staff will be notified of these students. This does not apply to classroom instruction where teachers will suggest appropriate sites and supervise the use of the Internet as a direct part of the curriculum.

**Disciplinary Actions**

Violations of this policy are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school. To ensure that the use of the District's information system and other electronic communications systems is consistent with the District's educational and legitimate business interests, authorized representatives of the District will occasionally monitor the use of such equipment.

See Board Policies, 603.10, and 603.11 (AR603.11).

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**Parent Opt Out Form for Independent Student Network Access**

Internet access is available to students and teachers in the Sioux City Community School District

We are very pleased to bring this access to Sioux City Community School District and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our purpose in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in our schools.

However, with access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered “educational” in nature. The Sioux City Community School District has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. Nevertheless, with a global network it is impossible to control all materials and content that may be experienced by your student.

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Student procedure and expectations are referenced in the Board Policy 581.12 Student Access to Networked Information Resources. The student and parent(s) should read and discuss the district policies regarding computer network and Internet use.

Your signature below will revoke permission for your student to independently access networked computer services (Internet or Intranet). However, your student will still be able to use computers for curriculum based software applications and classroom presentations involving networked information.

SIGN THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU DO **NOT** WISH YOUR CHILD  
TO USE THE INTERNET

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY**

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