

SUBJECT: USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKED INFORMATION RESOURCES (INTERNET USE)

The Dutchess County BOCES is committed to the optimization of student learning and teaching and therefore encourages the use of computers and networked resources, including the Internet (a global network made up of smaller contributing networks). The BOCES encourages computer network use as an integral part of the curriculum. Through software applications, on-line databases, bulletin boards and electronic mail, the network will enhance educational experience and provide statewide, national, and global communication opportunities for staff and students.

Networked computers with access to the Internet are subjected to technology protection measures (i.e. web content filter) in order to protect against user access to images and materials that are obscene and child pornography (as those terms are defined under federal law), and in the case of users who are under age 17, additionally protect against access to images and materials that are harmful to minors as the term is defined under federal law. When access is needed for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, these technology protection measures may be disabled.

The use of school computers, software, network resources and/or the Internet for noneducational purposes such as for profit activity, personal business or illegal activity is prohibited.

Each student or staff member who wishes to use the various schools' networks must establish a user (ID) account in order to assure the integrity of the network and Internet in Dutchess County BOCES. Each account holder must agree to act responsibly and to comply with this Policy and the Administrative procedures promulgated by the District Superintendent regarding access to and use of computers and networked information resources.

Any account user who, after due process has been afforded, is determined to have used BOCES' computers, networked information resources and/or the Internet in violation of this Policy and its administrative procedure may have his/her user account suspended and/or revoked. Also, a breach of the terms of this Policy and Administrative procedures may result in disciplinary action consistent with applicable laws and regulations, the Student Code of Conduct and collective bargaining agreements. A breach of the terms of this Policy and Administrative procedures may further result in a referral to appropriate law enforcement officials where the breach involves suspected illegal or criminal activities.

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Users acknowledge that in the course of using the Internet, there may occur interruptions in service beyond the control of the BOCES, which may result in the loss of data, information or files. The BOCES disclaims any and all responsibility for loss of data, information or files, caused by such service interruptions. Account users do not have a legitimate expectation of privacy when using BOCES computers and networked information resources. Therefore, BOCES may access all files and communications without prior notice to ensure system integrity and that users are complying with the requirements of this policy and accompanying regulations.

Users shall not use the Internet for any purpose that would violate any BOCES policy and/or regulation, or that would violate any State or Federal law or regulation.