

POLICY: IIBG
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TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Acceptable Use Policy
Philosophy

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of the society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right to citizenship.

Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees during the Age of Information. In the past, instructional and library media materials could usually be screened prior to use by staff. Telecommunications, because they may lead to any publicly available fileserver in the world, will open classrooms to electronic information resources which have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages. The Board expects that staff will blend thoughtful use of such information throughout the curriculum and that the staff will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner.

Independent student use of telecommunication and electronic information resources will be permitted upon submission of permission forms and agreement forms by parents of students and students themselves.

Access to telecommunications will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefits to students from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the School District of Hartford Joint #1 schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for independent access.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 120.13(1), 943.70, 947.0125

CROSS REFERENCE: IIBG-R, Student Internet and Network Safety Guidelines