

Policies

Newport Public Schools Instructional Resources & Materials - Computer Use & Access to the Internet

No. 6395

Page 1 of 2

The Newport Public Schools is committed to actively pursue making advanced technology and increased learning opportunities available to our students, staff, and community. The District believes that Internet access offers our educational community valuable resources for learning and communication with others. At the same time, we are aware that material in the Internet is uncensored and we can make no guarantees that information found on the Internet will be valuable, reliable, or inoffensive. However, we firmly believe that, with proper supervision, electronic controls, and compliance with State and Federal statutes, the vast amount of information available and the interaction with other people made possible via the Internet are valuable resources to enhance student learning. To the degree possible, instruction on and access to the Internet will be designed in a manner which points to those resources that have been reviewed and evaluated prior to student use.

Access to the Internet with the Newport Public Schools is viewed as a privilege, not a right. That access entails responsibility. We expect all users of Newport Public Schools' Internet access will do so in a responsible manner and will be considerate of all other users. Students utilizing District-provided Internet access must have the permission of and must be supervised by the Newport Public Schools professional staff.

Internet use areas will be treated like class work and school lockers. Network administrators may view files, communications and sites visited to maintain system integrity and to insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files accessed or stored on district computers will be private.

The district will not be held liable for any lost, damaged, or unavailable information because of technical or other difficulties.

Before access is granted to a student or community member, the user must annually read and sign an agreement (see Appendix) for acceptable use of the Internet in the Newport Public Schools. Staff agreement forms will be signed once and kept on file.

Student access will also require the signature of a parent/guardian. While we realize that accidental access to unsuitable Internet areas may occur on occasion, repeated or intentionally inappropriate Internet use will result

Policies

Newport Public Schools Instructional Resources & Materials - Computer Use & Access to the Internet

No. 6395

Page 2 of 2

in suspension or revocation of that privilege and may result in further disciplinary and/or legal action.

The following will also apply to Internet use within the Newport Public School:

- All users of Internet with the Newport Public Schools are responsible for appropriate behavior on the Internet just as they are when involved in any school activity. General District and school rules and policies apply to all Internet activity and communication.
- The purpose of Internet access at school is to support research and educational goals. Use of the Internet must always support those goals.

Unless explicit permission is granted, games and chat lines may not be used.

Internet users must never:

- Reveal personal addresses or phone numbers
- Send or display offensive messages, data, graphics, or pictures
- Use inappropriate language
- Use another person's password or account
- Share an e-mail account or password with anyone
- Violate copyright law by copying or using unauthorized copies of programs
- Access other people's folders, files, or programs without permission
- Use information without giving proper credit to the author
- Harass, insult, or attack other Internet users
- Use the Internet for any commercial purposes
- Willfully destroy or vandalize other people's work, computers, or computer programs and files

History: IJND and IJND-R, 12/9/97, 8/28/

Reference: Newport Public Schools Web Policy