

# Policies

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## **Newport Public Schools Students – Administrative Policies - Internet Use Policy**

**No. 5335**

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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, the vast amount of information available and the interaction with other people made possible via the Internet far outweigh the risks. To the degree possible, instruction on and access to the Internet will be designed in a manner which points students to those resources which have been reviewed and evaluated prior to student use.

Access to the Internet within 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 due to technical or other difficulties.

Before access is granted to any user (student, staff, or community member), the user must annually read and sign the attached agreement for acceptable use of the Internet in the Newport Public Schools. 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 in suspension or revocation of that privilege and may result in further disciplinary and/or legal action.

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

- 1.) All users of Internet within 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.
- 2.) The purpose of Internet access at school is to support research and educational goals. Use of the Internet must always support those goals.
- 3.) Unless explicit permission is granted, games and chat lines may not be used.
- 4.) 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
  - 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

Policy Originally Adopted: 12/9/97 (IJND)

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### Newport Public Schools Permission Form for Internet Access

*Each student and a parent or guardian must read and sign this form prior to accessing school Internet facilities.*

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Homeroom:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

I understand and will abide by the terms and conditions for Internet access for the Newport Public Schools. I further understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. If I commit any violation, my access privileges may be suspended, revoked, school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

**User Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent or guardian of this student, I have read and understand the terms and conditions for Internet access. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and that the Newport Public Schools will take reasonable precautions to restrict access to controversial material. I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial material, and I will not hold the Newport Public Schools responsible for materials acquired on the Internet. I hereby give permission to provide Internet access to my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

**Parent or Guardian's Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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