

**INTERNET AND COMPUTER USAGE POLICY  
(CHILD INTERNET PROTECTION POLICY-CIPA)**

**PURPOSE:**

The North Kingstown School Department provides internet, data and video/audio services to students, faculty and to a limited extent the general public at each of our locations and manages and maintains the network and PCs at the locations. This statement of the North Kingstown School Department's "Policy Statement on Internet and Computer Use" is intended to provide information and guidance for the administrators, faculty and staff, and guest users regarding the North Kingstown School Department's compliance with federal and state laws concerning the use of our computers and network.

**PHILOSOPHY:**

1. It is the policy of the North Kingstown School Department to comply with all applicable federal and state laws governing the use of computers and the internet.
2. The NKSD is committed to providing schools with access to technology and network service for the education and enrichment of the communities we serve.
3. The NKSD receives federal assistance through eRate to provide the network connection for participating schools. Each school is therefore required to have, and has adopted, an internet Usage Policy that complies with the Children's internet Protection Act (CIPA), 20 U.S. Code § 9134. This internet Usage Policy is to protect the following:
  - Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the internet
  - The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications
  - Unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online
  - Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
  - Access to materials harmful to minors
4. The Department is committed to respecting and protecting the privacy of users of its computer network.

**STATEMENT:**

1. Except as provided in this Policy Statement or otherwise required by law, the Department staff will not monitor, control, or restrict the access of any user to either computers or information available online.

2. Users must keep in mind that devices connected to the NKSD network are neither private nor secure and must utilize judgment and discretion. Certain internet use data may be lawfully obtained by law enforcement authorities. The NKSD assumes no liability for any violation of privacy of individual patrons who use the NKSD network.
3. Use of computers and the e-mail system by school employees is governed by District Policies, IJNDB and IJNDB-R, which may allow incidental use of those computers for personal purposes. However, the computers are the property of the NKSD and the NKSD owns and manages the network to which they are connected. The North Kingstown School Department reserves the right to inspect the contents of any users e-mail account to investigate compliance with applicable laws, and the School Department may, where appropriate, exercise its right to inspect computer hard drives to ensure compliance with applicable laws. Because the School Department respects the privacy rights of users, it will only exercise this right to inspect contents of email or files where it has cause to believe that there has been a violation of law or cause to believe non compliance with the applicable Acceptable Use Policies in place and with the concurrence of a Administrative Employee, when it has legally requested by law enforcement authorities, or when requested by the Superintendent, or his/her agent consistent with district policy. School employees, faculty, staff or students should never use district computers to transmit offensive, inappropriate, or harassing material.

#### CIPA Compliance

4. Because the computers in School Department schools are provided with internet access at a discounted rate under eRate, CIPA requires all computer terminals to utilize technology protection measures or filtering software. Under CIPA, Congress mandated that the filtering software must protect against access through school computers of certain material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2003 upheld this requirement as constitutional under the First Amendment.
5. All of the North Kingstown School Department schools have certified their compliance with the requirements of CIPA and all networks in those schools utilize filtering software.
6. The School Department has implemented a filtering system that is CIPA-compliant, which is installed on all school networks. Nonetheless, Congress and the Supreme Court have both recognized that filtering software is inherently unreliable and can over-block or under-block access on the internet. Please refer to the NKSD Internet Filtering Policy – IJNDB.2a - for more information regarding filtering.

#### Compliance with Other Federal and State Laws

7. Users of any School Department computer, internet connection, or database must comply fully with federal, state, and local laws, with school rules and policies. Additionally, users may be required to comply with the laws of other jurisdictions and the rules and policies of other systems and networks when engaging in electronic communications with persons in other jurisdictions or on other systems and networks.

8. Users must comply with the terms and conditions of applicable contracts, including software licenses, and must refrain from any activity that violates the intellectual property rights of others.

9. Users may not use any School Department computer, internet connection, or database in any manner that could be reasonably expected to disrupt or impair normal network use and service; to gain unauthorized access to any computer, system, or database; to violate the privacy of any person; to transmit, develop, or propagate any computer virus or other harmful program; or to circumvent computer-security or data-protection measures.

10. School Department computers and internet connections are intended for research, education, community economic development, and public service. Users may not send spam or engage in illegal activities via these computers and connections.

#### Enforcement

11. The School Department shall make reasonable efforts to inform employees and users of the policies governing the use of its computers, internet connections, and databases. Each school shall also make reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with this Policy Statement and with state and federal laws applicable to use of the NKSD network.

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