

## INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

Chazy Central Rural School students and staff have an exciting opportunity to become members of the information superhighway. Access to the Internet provides vast, diverse, and unique resources. An individual can locate information anywhere in the world. Connection to universities, national libraries, businesses and museums is easily within the realm of possibility. With this opportunity comes the responsibility for appropriate use. It is for this reason that an acceptable use policy has been drawn up concerning use of both the network and the Internet.

All of the computers are School District property and, as such, none of the data or information stored on them is private. District officials and the system administrator have the right to access all computerized files for any reason whatsoever.

The employees of the School District have been apprised of the material in this Acceptable Use Policy and are in agreement with its provisions, both in terms of student use and employee use. Employees must be careful not to engage in careless use of passwords. They are aware that both students and employees may be disciplined for violating school policies relating to the use of school computers and the Internet.

Our Internet filtering system logs all users and their activities while on the Internet. Any unsuitable sites that are blocked, due to pornography, gambling, etc. are logged.

Should additional questions arise, system and school administrators will decide what constitutes appropriate use and their decision will be final.

The AUP must be signed and returned each school year.

The use of the Internet and network must be in support of education and research and in accordance with the educational objectives of the Chazy Central Rural School District. It is expected that users will employ network etiquette and common sense. This Acceptable Use Policy/Internet Safety Policy is an extension of school policies already in place whose purpose is to govern student expectations and behavior. Unacceptable and safe use includes, but is not limited to, the following behavior by and individual(s):

- Intentionally disrupts information network traffic or crashes the network and connected systems;
- Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
- Uses computer resources for commercial or financial gain or fraud;
- Steals data, equipment, or intellectual property;
- Gains unauthorized access to the files of others, or vandalizes the data or files of another user;
- Invades the privacy of individuals;

- Accessing unacceptable websites;
- Uses the Internet to post anonymous messages, insults, threats, attacks, or harasses others, including sexual harassment;
- Transmits or receives any material that is obscene, immoral, violent, illegal or in violation of any district policy or regulation;
- Uses network for illegal activities;
- Vandalizes—any malicious attempts to harm or destroy data or another user.
- Wastefully uses the finite resources (ribbon, paper, etc.).
- Uses inappropriate language.
- Violates the rules of common sense or etiquette.
- Reads and posts messages to personal e-mail accounts and/or social networking accounts (students and non-employees).
- Uses computer resources for political activity.  
Uses computer resources for private use.

In addition, users should not transmit any personal addresses or addresses of others. Credit card numbers, bank account numbers, or any other financial information should not be disclosed. Users must also notify system administrators immediately if they detect a security problem.

Downloading, installing, or using unauthorized software is prohibited.

Issues of methods of use of information procured from the Internet may arise. These issues include, but are not limited to, the following.\*

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is “taking ideas or writings from another person and offering them as your own.” Credit should always be given to the person who created the article or is responsible for the idea. Take extra caution when using the information networks. Cutting and pasting ideas into your own document, without giving credit to the author, is plagiarism.

### Copyright

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*Citing Sources*

Be sure to include all necessary information when citing sources.

\* More information may be found in the attached addendum.

Violation of the acceptable use policy may result in any or all the following penalties:

- Suspension of Internet access;
- Revocation of Internet access;
- Suspension of network privileges;
- Revocation of network privileges;
- Suspension of all computer access;
- Revocation of all computer access;
- School suspension;
- School expulsion; and
- Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

Due process will be used in handling violations. In addition, the District has the right to restrict or terminate network/Internet access at any time for any reason. The District, further, has the right to monitor network activity (e-mail included) in any form that it sees fit to maintain the integrity of the network/Internet system.

The Internet contains sites, which make it possible for students to access information that is intended for adults. Student access to and use of the Internet will be under teacher/staff direction and will be monitored as any other classroom activity. Although the Chazy Central School District has taken all responsible actions to insure that **Internet use is only for purposes consistent with the school curriculum**, the District cannot prevent access to, nor identify, all areas of inappropriate material on the Internet. No security is ever perfect and computer security falls in this category. It is very possible that a determined student could make use of computer resources for inappropriate purposes.

The Chazy Central Rural School District believes that the benefits to both students and educators from Internet access far outweighs the possible disadvantages. As is the case for all school behavior, ultimately, the parent(s) and guardian(s) of minors are responsible for setting and conveying standards for their children. Therefore, it is the opinion of the district that it is each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for Internet access.

As part of this policy, and the district's policy on acceptable use of district computers (policy 4526), the district shall also provide age-appropriate instruction regarding appropriate online behavior, including;

1. interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms, and
2. cyberbullying awareness and response.

Instruction will be provided even if the district prohibits students from accessing social networking sites or chat rooms on district computers.

Cross-ref: 4526, Computer Use in Instruction

Ref: Children’s Internet Protection Act, Public Law No. 106-554  
Broadband Data Services Improvement Act/ Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century Act, Public Law No. 110-385  
18 USC §2256  
20 USC §6777  
47 USC §254  
20 USC §6801

Adoption date: August 8, 2006  
Revised date: September 8, 2009  
Revised date: September 12, 2017  
Revised date: July 10, 2018