SUBJECT: ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY FOR STUDENT USE OF COMPUTER INFORMATION RESOURCES

The Onondaga Central School District recognizes the value of computer and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of its schools. The Board of Education encourages the responsible use of computers, computer networks, including the internet; and other electronic resources in support of the mission and goals of the Onondaga Central School District. The Board of Education will provide access to various computerized information resources through the District's computer system consisting of software, hardware, computer networks and electronic communication systems.

The advantages afforded by the rich, digital resources available today through the District Computer Network and World Wide Web outweigh any disadvantage. However, it is important to remember that access is a privilege, not a right, and carries with it responsibilities for all involved. The Board of Education adopts this policy governing the voluntary use of electronic resources and the Internet in order to provide guidance to individuals and groups obtaining access to these resources.

A. Definition: The Network/Internet refers to the global network of computers created by the interfacing of distributed computing. Its services are intended to support curriculum, instruction, open educational inquiry and research, and legitimate business interests of the Onondaga Central School District. In this document, "Network/Interface Access" or District's Computer System refers to all information accessed through the use of the District's equipment and resources for connection to and use of Network services.

B. Philosophy of Network/Internet Use: One purpose of this policy is to provide notice to students and parents/guardians that, unlike most traditional instructional or library media materials, the District Computer System (DCS) will allow student access to external resources. Some of the available materials may be deemed unsuitable by parents/guardians for student use or access. This policy is intended to establish general guidelines for acceptable student use. However, despite the existence of such District policy and accompanying guidelines and regulations, it will not be possible to completely prevent access to computerized information that is inappropriate for students. Furthermore, students may have the ability to access such information from their home or other locations off school premises. Parents/guardians of students must be willing to set and convey standards for appropriate and acceptable use to their children when using the DCS or any other electronic media of communications. The District respects the right of each family to decide whether or not to apply for independent computer access.

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C. Authorized Users: Administrators, teachers, other employees of the district, and students may be authorized to use District Network resources, which include all information accessed by Network/Internet sites, intranet, email, online services, blogs, wikis, podcasts or other web 2.0 technologies. Access to the Network/Internet is granted as a privilege, not a right. Individual users of the Network/Internet consent and agree to use District Network resources in an appropriate and responsible manner and by their use; behavior or communication shall not violate any Policy of the District or applicable law. Student use of the District's Network resources is conditioned upon written agreement by all students and their parent/guardians that student use of District Network Resources will conform to the requirements of this policy and any regulations adopted to ensure acceptable use of the District's computer systems. All such agreements will be kept on file at the District Office.

Students who engage in unacceptable use may lose access to the DCS in accordance with applicable due process procedures, and may be subject to further discipline under the District's school conduct and discipline policy and the Student Discipline Code of Conduct. The District reserves the right to pursue legal action against a student who willfully, maliciously or unlawfully damages or destroys property of the District. Further, the District may bring suit in civil court against the parents/guardians of any student who willfully, maliciously or unlawfully damages or destroys District property pursuant to General Obligations Law Section 3-112.

Student data files and other electronic storage areas will be treated like school lockers. This means that such areas shall be considered to be School District property subject to control and inspection. The Director of Technology may access all such files and communications to insure system integrity and that users are complying with the requirements of this policy and accompanying regulations. Students should **NOT** expect that information stored on the District's Computer Network will be private.

The Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to establish regulations as necessary to implement the terms of this policy.

Adopted: 1/5/98
Revised: 5/6/08