

Computers and computer networks, including the Internet, offer vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. The goal of the School District of Cambridge in providing these services to students is to promote learning by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

Through use of computers and networks, the Board of Education believes learners will:

- broaden their problem-solving, decision-making abilities;
- gain employability skills needed for the 21st century;
- enter into partnerships to enhance their learning options and interact effectively with others;
- develop their higher-level thinking skills;
- apply and demonstrate effective communication skills in realistic situations;
- access global resources and broaden their research capabilities, this strengthening their communication skills; and
- be able to supplement their classroom materials.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and a diligent user may discover controversial information. To minimize this risk there is an Internet filtering service in place for every computer in the District that, at a minimum, protects against access to visual depictions that are obscene or harmful to minors, or child pornography. The Board firmly believes that the valuable information and interaction available on a network far outweigh the possibility that users may produce or be exposed to material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the District.

The smooth operation of a network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources for educational purposes only. The user is ultimately responsible for his/her actions in accessing network services and for adhering to District use policies, procedures and guidelines. If a student user violates these provisions, his/her account may be terminated, future access could be limited or denied, and potential suspension, expulsion, or legal action could occur.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Sections 120.13(1) Wisconsin Statutes

895.035

943.70

947.0125

PL 94-553, 1976 Federal Copyright Law

Children's Internet Protection Act

Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act