

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**G 6R: RESPONSIBLE COMPUTER, NETWORK & INTERNET USE**

*(Formerly Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources)*

**Purpose**

The Burlington School District recognizes that information technology (IT) is integral to learning and educating today's children for success in the global community and fully supports the access of these electronic resources by students and staff. The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Create an environment that fosters the use of information technology in a manner that supports and enriches the curriculum, provides opportunities for collaboration, and enhances staff professional development.
2. Ensure the district takes appropriate measures to maintain the safety of everyone that accesses the district's information technology devices, network and web resources.
3. Comply with the requirements of applicable federal and state laws that regulate the provision of access to the internet and other electronic resources by school districts.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Burlington School District to provide students and staff access to a multitude of information technology (IT) resources including the Internet. These resources provide opportunities to enhance learning and improve communication within our community and with the global community beyond. However, with the privilege of access comes the responsibility of students, teachers, staff and the public to exercise responsible use of these resources. The use by students, staff or others of district IT resources is a privilege, not a right.

The same rules and expectations govern student use of IT resources as apply to other student conduct and communications, including but not limited to the district's harassment and bullying policies.

The district's computer and network resources are the property of the district. Users shall have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, receive or display on or over the district's computers or network resources, including personal files and electronic communications.

The Superintendent is responsible for establishing procedures governing use of IT resources consistent with the provisions of this policy. These procedures must include:

1. An annual process for educating students about responsible digital citizenship. As defined in this policy, responsible digital citizens understand safety, security, and privacy concerns; respectfully participate in online interactions; understand how information can be created, evaluated, and built on; understand copyright and authorship rights for their own works and others.

2. Provisions necessary to ensure that Internet service providers and other contractors comply with applicable restrictions on the collection and disclosure of student data and any other confidential information stored in district electronic resources.
3. Technology protection measures that provide for the monitoring and filtering of online activities by all users of district IT, including measures that protect against access to content that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.
4. Methods to address the following:
  - Control of access by minors to sites on the Internet that include inappropriate content, such as content that is:
    - ✓ Lewd, vulgar, or profane
    - ✓ Threatening
    - ✓ Harassing or discriminatory
    - ✓ Bullying
    - ✓ Terroristic
    - ✓ Obscene or pornographic
  - The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, social media sites, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
  - Prevention of unauthorized online access by minors, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities.
  - Unauthorized disclosure, use, dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
  - Restriction of minors’ access to materials harmful to them.
5. A process whereby authorized persons may temporarily disable the district’s Internet filtering measures during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

### **Policy Application**

This policy applies to anyone who accesses the district’s network, collaboration and communication tools, and/or student information systems either on-site or via a remote location, and anyone who uses the district’s IT devices either on or off-site.

### **Limitation/Disclaimer of Liability**

The District is not liable for unacceptable use or violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, user mistakes or negligence, and costs incurred by users. The District is not responsible for ensuring the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any information found on the District’s electronic resources network including the Internet. The District is not responsible for any damage experienced, including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through or stored on the electronic resources system including the Internet, or for financial obligations arising through their unauthorized use.

## Enforcement

The District reserves the right to revoke access privileges and/or administer appropriate disciplinary action for misuse of its IT resources. In the event there is an allegation that a user has violated this policy, the School District will handle the allegation consistent with the student disciplinary policy.

Allegations of staff member violations of this policy will be processed in accord with contractual agreements and legal requirements.

Legal Reference(s):    *17 U.S.C. §§101-120 (Federal Copyright Act of 1976 as amended)*  
                                  *20 U.S.C. § 6777 et seq. (Enhancing Education Through Technology Act)*  
                                  *18 U.S.C. §2251 (Federal Child Pornography Law—Sexual Exploitation and Other Abuse of Children)*  
                                  *47 U.S.C. §254 (Children’s Internet Protection Act)*  
                                  *47 CFR §54.520 (CIPA Certifications)*  
                                  *13 V.S.A. §§2802 et seq. (Obscenity, minors)*  
                                  *13 V.S.A. § 1027 (Disturbing Peace by Use of...Electronic Means)*  
                                  *13 V.S.A. §2605(Voyeurism)*

Cross Reference:        *F 29R Prevention of Harassment, Hazing & Bullying (VSBA REQ)*  
                                  *F 13 Student Conduct and Discipline (VSBA Optional)*  
                                  *G 12 Selection of Instructional Materials (VSBA Optional)*  
                                  *G 17 Controversial Issues (VSBA Optional)*

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