

INSTRUCTION

Student Access and Use of Networked Information Resources and Communications

The board recognizes that telecommunications and other new technologies shift in the way that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred by members of society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The board generally supports students and staff accessing rich and varied information resources when accompanied by appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship.

Telecommunications, electronic information resources, and networked services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms and media centers to a broader array of resources. In the past, instructional materials could be screened by committees of educators and community members prior to use to assure that the criteria of the District Instructional Materials Curriculum Committee were met. Librarians continue to use their professional journal evaluations in their selection of library materials.

Telecommunications because of its ability to take staff and students to publicly available information file servers all over the world, open classrooms and media centers to electronic information resources and communications which have not been screened by educators and community for use by students of various ages.

Information research skills are fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees during the Age of Information. The board expects that staff will blend thoughtful use of such information throughout the curriculum and that the staff will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources. Staff will individually use the general guidelines cited in the District Instructional Materials Handbook for the selection of materials.

Staff and students are accountable for responsible behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. (see Policy #3200, Student Rights and Responsibilities.) Access to network services will be provided to students who have read the Users Agreement and agree to act in an appropriate and responsible manner.

The Shoreline Electronic Information Network System (configurations of hardware and software that connects users) has been created for the purpose of supporting educational activities for students and staff. It is not intended as a means of creating a first amendment forum for free expression of speech. The district dedicates the property comprising the network and grants access to it by users only for the educational activities authorized under this policy and procedures and the specific limitations contained therein.

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(continued)

Independent student use of telecommunications and electronic information resources will be permitted upon submission of signed permission forms and user agreement forms by parents of minor students (under 18 years of age) and by students themselves. The regional networks, such as K–20 Network, require agreement by users to acceptable use policies which outline behavior and communication standards.

Access to the Shoreline Electronic Information Network System from school will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The board believes that the benefits to students from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed potential disadvantages. But, ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, the Shoreline School District supports and respects each family’s right to decide independent access.

The board directs the superintendent to provide training and procedures that encourage the widest possible access to the K-20 network by students, staff, and the educational community while establishing reasonable controls for the lawful, efficient and appropriate use and management of the system. The board authorizes the superintendent to periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy and procedure on student achievement and teaching and learning.

Cross reference:	Policy	2311	Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials
		2312	Copyright Compliance
		2330	Academic Freedom
		3200	Student Rights and Responsibilities
		5223	Conflicts of Interest
		5224	Misuse of Public Monies
		5255	Disciplinary Action and Discharge

District Instructional Materials Curriculum Committee Handbook

Management Resources: PNA 9808.02 Permission required to review e-mail

Adopted June 4, 2001
September 11, 1995