

524 INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY

Adopted: August 20, 2009

Revised: December 9, 2010

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and guidelines for access to CRSS computer system and acceptable and safe use of the Internet, including electronic communications.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

In making decisions regarding student and employee access to the CRSS computer system and the Internet, including electronic communications, CRSS considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the CRSS computer system and to the Internet enables students and employees to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources while exchanging messages with people around the world. CRSS expects that faculty will blend thoughtful use of the CRSS computer system and the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in their use.

III. LIMITED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

CRSS is providing students and employees with access to the CRSS computer system, which includes Internet access. The purpose of the system is more specific than providing students and employees with general access to the Internet. The CRSS system has a limited educational purpose, which includes use of the system for classroom activities, educational research, and professional or career development activities. Users are expected to use Internet access through the district system to further educational and personal goals consistent with the mission of CRSS and school policies. Uses which might be acceptable on a user's private personal account on another system may not be acceptable on this limited-purpose network.

IV. USE OF SYSTEM IS A PRIVILEGE

The use of the CRSS system and access to use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Depending on the nature and degree of the violation and the number of previous violations, unacceptable use of the CRSS system or the Internet may result in one or more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges; payments for damages and repairs;

discipline under other appropriate school district policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion or termination of employment; or civil or criminal liability under other applicable laws.

V. UNACCEPTABLE USES

- A. The following uses of the CRSS system and Internet resources or accounts are considered unacceptable:
1. Users will not use the CRSS system to access, review, upload, download, store, print, post, receive, transmit or distribute:
 - a. pornographic, obscene or sexually explicit material or other visual depictions that are harmful to minors;
 - b. obscene, abusive, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually explicit language;
 - c. materials that use language or images that are inappropriate in the education setting or disruptive to the educational process;
 - d. information or materials that could cause damage or danger of disruption to the educational process;
 - e. materials that use language or images that advocate violence or discrimination toward other people (hate literature) or that may constitute harassment or discrimination.
 2. Users will not use the CRSS system to knowingly or recklessly post, transmit or distribute false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or to harass another person, or to engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
 3. Users will not use the CRSS system to engage in any illegal act or violate any local, state or federal statute or law.
 4. Users will not use the CRSS system to vandalize, damage or disable the property of another person or organization, will not make deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt equipment, software or system performance by spreading computer viruses or by any other means, will not tamper with, modify or change CRSS system software, hardware or wiring or take any action to

violate CRSS's security system, and will not use the CRSS system in such a way as to disrupt the use of the system by other users.

5. Users will not use the CRSS system to gain unauthorized access to information resources or to access another person's materials, information or files without the permission of that person.
6. Users will not use the CRSS system to post private information about another person, personal contact information about themselves or other persons, or other personally identifiable information, including, but not limited to, addresses, telephone numbers, school addresses, work addresses, identification numbers, account numbers, access codes or passwords, labeled photographs or other information that would make the individual's identity easily traceable, and will not repost a message that was sent to the user privately without permission of the person who sent the message.
 - a. This paragraph does not prohibit the posting of employee contact information on school district webpages or communications between employees and other individuals when such communications are made for education-related purposes (i.e., communications with parents or other staff members related to students).
 - b. Employees creating or posting school-related webpages may include personal contact information about themselves on a webpage. However, employees may not post personal contact information or other personally identifiable information about students unless:
 - (1) such information is classified by CRSS as directory information, and verification is made that CRSS has not received notice from a parent/guardian or eligible student that such information is not to be designated as directory information in accordance with Policy 515; or
 - (2) such information is not classified by CRSS as directory information but written consent for release of the information to be posted has been obtained from a parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with Policy 515.

In addition, prior to posting any personal contact or

personally identifiable information on a school-related webpage, employees shall obtain written approval of the content of the postings from the building administrator.

- c. These prohibitions specifically prohibit a user from utilizing the CRSS system to post personal information about a user or another individual on social networks, including, but not limited to, social networks such as “MySpace” and “Facebook.”
7. Users must keep all account information and passwords on file with the designated school district official. Users will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the CRSS system or any other system through the CRSS system, attempt to log in through another person’s account, or use computer accounts, access codes or network identification other than those assigned to the user. Messages and records on the CRSS system may not be encrypted without the permission of appropriate school authorities.
 8. Users will not use the CRSS system to violate copyright laws or usage licensing agreements, or otherwise to use another person’s property without the person’s prior approval or proper citation, including the downloading or exchanging of pirated software or copying software to or from any school computer, and will not plagiarize works they find on the Internet.
 9. Users will not use the CRSS system for conducting business, for unauthorized commercial purposes or for financial gain unrelated to the mission of CRSS. Users will not use the CRSS system to offer or provide goods or services or for product advertisement. Users will not use the CRSS system to purchase goods or services for personal use without authorization from a school district official.
- B. A student or employee engaging in the foregoing unacceptable uses of the Internet when off school district premises also may be in violation of this policy as well as other school district policies. Examples of such violations are, but are not limited to, situations where the CRSS system is compromised or if a school district employee or student is negatively impacted. If CRSS receives a report of an unacceptable use originating from a non-school computer or resource, CRSS may investigate such reports to the best of its ability. Students or employees may be subject to disciplinary action for such conduct, including, but not limited to, suspension or cancellation of the use or access to the CRSS computer system and the Internet and discipline

under other appropriate school district policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or termination of employment.

- C. If a user inadvertently accesses unacceptable materials or an unacceptable Internet site, the user shall immediately disclose the inadvertent access to an appropriate school district official. In the case of a school district employee, the immediate disclosure shall be to the Executive Director. This disclosure may serve as a defense against an allegation that the user has intentionally violated this policy. In certain rare instances, a user also may access otherwise unacceptable materials if necessary to complete an assignment and if done with the prior approval of and with appropriate guidance from the appropriate teacher or, in the case of a school district employee, the building administrator.

VI. FILTER

- A. With respect to any of its computers with Internet access, CRSS will monitor the online activities of minors and employ technology protection measures during any use of such computers by minors and adults. The technology protection measures utilized will block or filter Internet access to any visual depictions that are:
 - 1. Obscene;
 - 2. Child pornography; or
 - 3. Harmful to minors.
- B. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
 - 1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or
 - 2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - 3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
- C. An administrator, supervisor or other person authorized by the

Superintendent may disable the technology protection measure, during use by an adult, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

VII. CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES

Use of the CRSS computer system and use of the Internet shall be consistent with school district policies and the mission of CRSS.

VIII. LIMITED EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY

- A. By authorizing use of the CRSS system, CRSS does not relinquish control over materials on the system or contained in files on the system. Users should expect only limited privacy in the contents of personal files on CRSS system.
- B. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the CRSS system may lead to a discovery that a user has violated this policy, another school district policy, or the law.
- C. An individual investigation or search will be conducted if school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school district policy.
- D. Parents have the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their child's files and e-mail files. Parents have the right to request the termination of their child's individual account at any time.
- E. School district employees should be aware that CRSS retains the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their files and e-mail files. In addition, school district employees should be aware that data and other materials in files maintained on CRSS system may be subject to review, disclosure or discovery under Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act).
- F. CRSS will cooperate fully with local, state and federal authorities in any investigation concerning or related to any illegal activities or activities not in compliance with school district policies conducted through the CRSS system.

IX. INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

- A. The proper use of the Internet, and the educational value to be gained from proper Internet use, is the joint responsibility of students, parents and employees of CRSS.

- B. This policy requires the permission of and supervision by the school's designated professional staff before a student may use a school account or resource to access the Internet.
- C. The Internet Use Agreement form for students must be read and signed by the user, the parent or guardian, and the supervising teacher. The Internet Use Agreement form for employees must be signed by the employee. The form must then be filed at the school office. As supervising teachers change, the agreement signed by the new teacher shall be attached to the original agreement.

X. LIMITATION ON SCHOOL DISTRICT LIABILITY

Use of the CRSS system is at the user's own risk. The system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. CRSS will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including, but not limited to, loss, damage or unavailability of data stored on school district diskettes, tapes, hard drives or servers, or for delays or changes in or interruptions of service or misdeliveries or nondeliveries of information or materials, regardless of the cause. CRSS is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of any advice or information obtained through or stored on the CRSS system. CRSS will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through unauthorized use of the CRSS system or the Internet.

XI. USER NOTIFICATION

- A. All users shall be notified of CRSS policies relating to Internet use.
- B. This notification shall include the following:
 - 1. Notification that Internet use is subject to compliance with school district policies.
 - 2. Disclaimers limiting CRSS's liability relative to:
 - a. Information stored on school district diskettes, hard drives or servers.
 - b. Information retrieved through school district computers, networks or online resources.
 - c. Personal property used to access school district computers, networks or online resources.
 - d. Unauthorized financial obligations resulting from use of

school district resources/accounts to access the Internet.

3. A description of the privacy rights and limitations of school sponsored/managed Internet accounts.
4. Notification that, even though CRSS may use technical means to limit student Internet access, these limits do not provide a foolproof means for enforcing the provisions of this acceptable use policy.
5. Notification that goods and services can be purchased over the Internet that could potentially result in unwanted financial obligations and that any financial obligation incurred by a student through the Internet is the sole responsibility of the student and/or the student's parents.
6. Notification that the collection, creation, reception, maintenance and dissemination of data via the Internet, including electronic communications, is governed by Policy 406, Public and Private Personnel Data, and Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records.
7. Notification that, should the user violate CRSS's acceptable use policy, the user's access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.
8. Notification that all provisions of the acceptable use policy are subordinate to local, state and federal laws.

XII. PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY; NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT INTERNET USE

- A. Outside of school, parents bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies and other possibly offensive media. Parents are responsible for monitoring their student's use of the CRSS system and of the Internet if the student is accessing the CRSS system from home or a remote location.
- B. Parents will be notified that their students will be using CRSS resources/accounts to access the Internet. This notification should include:
 1. A copy of the user notification form provided to the student user.

2. A description of parent/guardian responsibilities.
3. A statement that the Internet Use Agreement must be signed by the user, the parent or guardian, and the supervising teacher prior to use by the student.
4. A statement that CRSS's acceptable use policy is available for parental review.

XIII. IMPLEMENTATION; POLICY REVIEW

- A. CRSS administration may develop appropriate user notification forms, guidelines and procedures necessary to implement this policy for submission to the school board for approval. Upon approval by the school board, such guidelines, forms and procedures shall be an addendum to this policy.
- B. The administration shall revise the user notifications, including student and parent notifications, if necessary, to reflect the adoption of these guidelines and procedures.
- C. CRSS Internet policies and procedures are available for review by all parents, guardians, staff and members of the community.
- D. Because of the rapid changes in the development of the Internet, the school board shall conduct an annual review of this policy.

Legal References: 15 U.S.C. § 6501 *et seq.* (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act)

17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Copyrights)

20 U.S.C. § 6751 *et seq.* (Enhancing Education through Technology Act of 2001)

47 U.S.C. § 254 (Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000 (CIPA))

47 C.F.R. § 54.520 (FCC rules implementing CIPA)

Minn. Stat. § 125B.15 (Internet Access for Students)

Minn. Stat. § 125B.26 (Telecommunications/Internet Access Equity Act)

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)

United States v. American Library Association, 539 U.S. 194, 123 S.Ct. 2297, 56 L.Ed.2d 221 (2003)

Layshock v. Hermitage Sch. Dist., 412 F.Supp. 2d 502 (2006)

J.S. v. Bethlehem Area Sch. Dist., 807 A.2d 847 (Pa. 2002)

Cross References:

CRSS Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)

CRSS Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)

CRSS Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

CRSS Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition)

CRSS Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

CRSS Comprehensive Nondiscrimination Policy