

FERNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 502  
BOARD POLICY

No. 2314

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Technology and networked information resources are available to students and teachers in the Ferndale School District. Wide area networks offer vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. A goal in providing these services to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

Students and staff have access to services such as:

1. electronic mail (E-mail) communication with people all over the world;
2. public domain software and shareware;
3. discussion groups on a wide variety of topics;
4. access to many university library catalogs, the Library of Congress and Education Resources Information Center (ERIC); and
5. information and news from National Air and Space Administration (NASA) as well as the opportunity to correspond with the scientists at NASA and other research institutions.

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. Material accessed over Internet or other on-line services must be consistent with board policy no. 2311 which designates appropriate categories. However, on a global network, it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover offensive, sexually explicit, pornographic or other inappropriate information or materials. The Ferndale School District believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure information or material that are not consistent with the educational goals of the district. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines.

The Technology Resources terms and conditions require efficient, responsible and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Ferndale School District user violates any of these provisions, his or her account may be terminated and future access may be denied. Users will be required to sign a "Statement of Permission and Agreement," as specified in administrative procedures, which is binding and indicates the signatories have read the terms and conditions and understand their significance.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications outlined in board policy no. 3200 apply. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner.

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I. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. Acceptable Use

The use of any account must be in support of education and research, and consistent with the educational objectives of the Ferndale School District. The following are examples of activities which are not permitted:

1. sending or displaying sexually explicit, pornographic, obscene, lewd, or other inappropriate messages or pictures;
2. sending material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation;
3. using obscene language or material;
4. harassing, insulting or defaming others;
5. damaging computers, computer system or computer networks;
6. violating copyright laws;
7. using others' passwords;
8. trespassing on others' systems, folders, work or files;
9. excessive use of limited resources (beyond time authorized by administrators / staff);
10. employing the network for commercial, personal, political or union purposes.

B. Privileges

The use of the network is privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of those privileges. School administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. The school administrators may close an account or deny access by a student or staff member at any time.

C. Network Etiquette

Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following rules for each user:

1. be polite, do not be abusive in your message to others;
2. use appropriate language, do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language;
3. do not reveal the personal address, phone numbers or E-mail addresses of students or staff;
4. do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users; and

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5. do not engage in illegal activities. Electronic mail (E-mail) and files are not private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail and files. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities (i.e., activities that are subject to criminal prosecution) will be reported to the authorities.

Network storage areas are the property of the Ferndale School District. School administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on District servers will be private.

D. Warranty

The Ferndale School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The district will not be responsible for any damages users may suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, nondeliveries, misdeliveries or service interruptions due to negligence or errors or omissions. Use of information obtained via the network or Internet is at the users own risk. Ferndale School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

E. Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If the user identifies a security problem on the system, the user must notify the school administrator and must not demonstrate the problem to other users. Another individual's account may not be used without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the Internet as the system supervisor may result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the network.

F. Vandalism

Vandalism may result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any attempt to harm, destroy or obtain unauthorized access to data of another user, Internet, or other networked resources that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

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G. Sanctions

Sanctions may be applied in cases of inappropriate use of the network. Violators of this policy will be held liable for any and all damages done to the equipment or software resources and may result in the following:

1. loss of access;
2. additional disciplinary action may be determined at the building level, consistent with existing practice regarding in appropriate language or behavior; and
3. when applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 2311

Selection and Adoption of Instructional  
Materials

Board Policy 3200

Students Rights and Responsibilities

Adopted 08-29-95