

STUDENT NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the Dedham Public Schools instructional network (DPS Network) is to support and enhance teaching and learning by providing a network, computers and an Internet connection to allow electronic communications storage and access to information resources.

General Policies and Guidelines

It is the policy of the Dedham Public Schools that students shall utilize the network in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of the Dedham School Department for school-related purposes. The DPS Network is provided to support the educational mission of the district. All other uses are prohibited. The DPS Network is not a forum for personal opinion on any subject. Students are reminded that any use of the DPS Network must comply with this policy and all other applicable policies, procedures and rules of the Dedham Public Schools. Users must acknowledge their understanding of the general policy and guidelines as a condition of receiving an account to use the network. Failure to adhere to this policy and its guidelines below may result in suspending or revoking access to the network as well as other consequences as described below.

Guideline 1: Acceptable uses of the network are activities that support classroom teaching and learning, career development and limited high quality academic self-discovery activities.

Guideline 2: There shall be no anonymity in use of the network. All users must log in to the network with their given account name and password. No other user may use the network under that account.

Guideline 3: There are unacceptable uses of the network. Inappropriate uses can be classified into two categories: illegal and prohibited. Please note that some prohibited uses, in certain situations, can be illegal. Examples of illegal and prohibited activities follow. These lists are not to be viewed as comprehensive but as explanatory.

- Illegal activities will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Illegal uses include: obscenity, libel, threats, hate postings, sexual harassment, and copyright violations.
- Prohibited activities are based on the intended use of the DPS network. Examples of these include: promotion of personal views, pornography, profanity, plagiarism, commercial or political use, and anonymous messages. Additionally users are not to broadcast messages, download files or applications, send mass emails, encrypt files, raise unwelcome attention, show disrespect or violate commonly agreed upon etiquette when using the network.

Guideline 4: Staff members are responsible for teaching proper techniques and standards for participation, for guiding access to appropriate sections of the network, and for assuring that students understand that if they misuse the network, that consequences will be applied.

Guideline 5: It is the responsibility of students, parents, teachers and administrators to clearly communicate in order to support all guidelines.

Users of System

The student is responsible for what s/he says and does on the network. The following people are entitled to use the network in support of the Dedham School Department's mission:

- All Dedham School Department employees;
- All Dedham students under the supervision of a staff member;

- Others working in K-12 education that request guest accounts from the Technology Director, these requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and will be granted as needs and resources permit.

Limitation of Liability

The Dedham School Department (DSD) makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the system will be error-free. The DSD will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to loss of data or interruptions of service. The DSD is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The DSD will not be responsible for obligations (financial, legal or other) arising through the authorized or unauthorized use of the system.

Users of the system understand that some efforts are made to block inappropriate material but that it is impossible to block all offensive material; therefore, the DSD is not responsible for any information that is transferred through the Internet.

Additional Disclosures

Email is insecure and may be read by authorized enforcement personnel (see Email Policy for further details). Please note this only a limited expectation of privacy within the network, just as there is for any storage facility in the schools. Similarly, there is only a limited freedom of expression on the network: the school department has the discretionary right to “edit” publications within its jurisdiction everything posted or transmitted via the DPS is a “publication.”

In support of our educational mission, students’ work, image, voice and identification may be transmitted through the instructional network, including but not limited to, postings on the Dedham School Department’s Intranet and Internet site. Restrictions on such use should be submitted in writing to the building principal.

Consequences

Network use in the Dedham Schools is an appropriate application of our instructional program. Supervision and monitoring of student use will be a staff priority; however, there may be episodes of inappropriate student use. In this event, consequences will be applied.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use:

In the event of inappropriate use of the network, a building administrator will apply consequences. Consequences may consist of any or all of the following, as determined by the administrator following severity of the infraction.

- Parents will be contacted and informed of the violation.
- The student will lose her/his network access rights immediately. A conference with the building administrator, the student and parents will be held. Access privileges may be revoked permanently.
- A disciplinary report will be written, with a copy for the parents and a file copy.
- The student may be suspended or expelled from school.
- All illegal activity will be reported to local law enforcement.

If you have any concerns or questions about network use, please contact your child’s school principal.

Updated and Approved by School Committee October 6, 2010