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| POLICY | 4527 Adopted: August 22, 2006 School Board Governance |
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SUBJECT: INTERNET PROTECTION POLICY

General Information

Internet access will be provided to students and staff in accordance with the terms of this policy. Internet access from school computers is reserved solely for educational purposes. Use by outside groups is prohibited. Use by student clubs and organizations is limited to those times when the Internet access points are not in use for instruction, and shall be limited to educational purposes and governed by this policy. Student access to the Internet will be under the direction and supervision of the staff assigned to the particular Internet access area or computer.

The Greater Southern Tier BOCES reserves the right to monitor all student and staff Internet activity including transmission and receipt of e-mail. Use of e-mail is limited to BOCES purposes.

Every computer in the district having Internet access shall not be operated by students and staff unless Internet access from the computer is subject to filtering software. Such filtering software shall be designed and it shall so operate so that images which are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors shall not be displayed. Such filtering software shall also be designed and it shall operate so that images or language which advocate or promote violence or hatred against particular individuals or groups of individuals or promotes the superiority of one racial, ethnic or religious group over another shall not be displayed. For purposes of this policy, the phrase *harmful to minors* means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that, taken as a whole, and with respect to minors, appeals to prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion; 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, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

Prohibited Conduct

No student or staff shall, while using a computer or other device connected to the Internet:

1. Access, transmit or retransmit material which promotes violence or advocates destruction of property, including information concerning the manufacture of destructive devices, such as explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs, incendiary devices or the like;

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2. Access, transmit or retransmit any information which is harmful to minors as that phrase is defined in this policy.
3. Access, transmit or retransmit material which advocates or promotes violence or hatred against particular individuals or groups of individuals or promotes the superiority of one racial, ethnic or religious group over another.
4. Use or possess bootleg software. Bootleg software means any software which has been downloaded or is otherwise in the user's possession without the appropriate registration of the software, including the payment of any fees owing to the owner of the software.
5. Use encryption software from any access point within the BOCES.
6. Transmit credit card or other personal identification information, including home addresses or telephone numbers from any BOCES computer.
7. Transmit e-mail through an anonymous remailer.
8. Access the Internet from a BOCES computer using a non-BOCES Internet account.
9. Use an instant messenger service or program, Internet Relay Chat or other forms of direct electronic communication, or enter a chat room without the express permission of the staff member supervising the computer resource.
10. Commit or attempt to commit any willful act involving the use of the network which disrupts the operation of the network within the BOCES or any network connected to the Internet, including the use or attempted use or possession of computer viruses or so-called hacking or other unlawful activities online.
11. Disable or attempt to disable filtering software. However, such filtering software may be disabled for bona fide research or other lawful purposes, when the building principal of the building in which such research or other lawful activity will be conducted has given written permission to disable the filtering software.
12. Restrictions as listed in 1 – 11 above are not all inclusive, and are prohibited activities that the students and staff may not engage in.

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In addition to those penalties set forth in the Student Discipline Code, a violation of this Internet policy may also result in the loss of Internet privileges for students as well as staff.

Opinions, advice, services, and all other information expresses online are those of the online authors and not of the BOCES. The Internet contains information pertaining to a variety of subjects. Not all of this information is accurate or reliable, particularly where the advice of medical, legal, accounting or other professionals would be appropriate. Users are advised not to rely on advice found on the Internet. The BOCES is not responsible for such advice.

The BOCES does not guarantee or imply that access to the Internet will always be available when students or staff want access or that the software provided by the BOCES/districts will always work as intended. The BOCES is not responsible for failures in the operation or technical functioning of the Internet or the computers or software used to access the Internet.