

## INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The School Committee recognizes the need for students, faculty, and staff to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the district provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets for using technology as a tool. Information and communication technology are an integrated part of our curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

In order for students, faculty, and staff to use the Hull Public Schools Internet Connection, the party must read these guidelines and sign the acknowledgement form. The acknowledgement form must also be signed by a parent or guardian for anyone under eighteen (18) years of age.

### Guidelines for Use of the Hull Public Schools Internet Connection

Administrative guidelines, regulations, procedures, and user agreements, consistent with law and policy, shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Digital devices, software, and networks shall be used for educational purposes and activities.
- An individual's personal information (including home/mobile phone numbers, mailing addresses, and passwords) and that of others shall be kept private.
- Individuals will show respect for themselves and others when using technology including social media.
- Users shall give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work.
- Users shall report inappropriate use of technology immediately.

The Internet is a vast global network, linking computers at universities, schools, research facilities, and commercial sites. By way of the Internet, one can communicate with people from all over the world through various means including discussion forums and electronic mail (email). In addition, files, many of which have educational value, are available for downloading. Because of its enormous size, the Internet's potential is boundless. It is possible to speak electronically with people from all walks of life. However, with such great potential for education comes the potential for abuse, as well. It is the purpose of these guidelines to make sure that all who use the Internet, both students and faculty, use this valuable resource in an appropriate manner.

Use of the Hull Public Schools networks is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct. Such conduct would include, but is not limited to, placing unlawful and/or inappropriate information on a computer system, the use of abusive or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private messages, the sending of messages or files that are likely to result in the loss of a recipient's work or systems, the sending of "chain letters," or "broadcast" messages to lists or individuals, any other types of use which would cause congestion of the networks or otherwise interfere with the work of others, as well as the use of the Internet in a manner which would violate the copyright and/or trademark laws of the United States. In addition, the Hull Public Schools takes no responsibility for any information or materials that are transferred through the Internet.

Because of the size of the Internet, many kinds of materials eventually find their way onto the system. Should a user happen to find material that may be deemed inappropriate while using his

or her Hull Public Schools' Internet account, he or she shall refrain from downloading this material, and shall not identify or share the location of this material. Be aware that the transfer of certain kinds of material is illegal, and punishable by fine or jail sentence.

The primary purpose of the Internet connection is educational. It is essential that everyone who uses this connection understand that purpose. Therefore, anyone using the Internet connection for non-educational purposes shall immediately log off should any significant system slow-down occur. Failure to abide by these regulations shall result in suspension of their Hull Schools Internet account, pending administrative review.

The Hull Public Schools makes no guarantee, implied or otherwise, regarding the reliability of the data connection offered. Neither the Hull Public Schools nor the sponsor organizations shall be liable for any loss or corruption of data resulting from using the school Internet connection.

The Hull Public Schools reserves the right to examine all data stored in the machines involved in the Internet project to make sure that all users are in compliance with these regulations.

Network storage areas, including cloud based storage areas, may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may view files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on school department servers will always be private. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During the school day, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

No user shall use this Internet link to perform any act that may be construed as illegal or unethical, including the use of the link to gain unauthorized access to other systems on this or any other network.

The Hull Public Schools condemns the illegal distribution of software, otherwise known as pirating. Any student caught transferring such files through the Internet, and any whose accounts are found to contain such illegal files, shall immediately have their accounts permanently revoked. In addition, all users should be aware that software piracy is a federal offense and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Also, all users should keep in mind that when they are using the Internet, they are entering a global community, and any actions taken by them will reflect upon the Hull Public Schools as a whole. As such, all users must behave in an ethical and legal manner.

In summary, all students, teachers and staff of the Hull Public Schools are prohibited from: using the school department's Internet access for any personal use without permission (i.e. to send an email and /or access an Internet site); using any profane, vulgar, threatening libelous, or criminal language when using the Internet; accessing any prohibited sites on the Internet; overriding or encouraging students to override any firewalls established on the Internet access network; permitting another individual to use their password, dissemination of any passwords, codes, access telephone numbers, or account numbers; and/or any other action whatsoever which would in any way subject the user and/or the Hull Public Schools to a possible criminal or civil action. The foregoing list is not all-inclusive and the Hull Public Schools reserves the right to notify a user of any other impermissible action regarding the use of the Internet.

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***Hull Public Schools***