

PERSONNEL/STUDENTS

Acceptable Use Policy

The Stoneham Public School system provides technology, internet and network access to students, parents and staff to support educational excellence and enhance our curriculum. Use of school computers and online access is a privilege provided to students and staff.

Information sent and received using the Stoneham Public Schools network, and all hardware/software provided or installed by the Stoneham Public Schools, is considered the property of the Stoneham Public Schools and is subject to review at the discretion of school administration. A user is deemed to access and use the school department network through any electronic activity conducted on the system using any device (whether or not such device is school-provided) regardless of the user's physical location.

Users have no right to privacy while using the network. The school department monitors users' online activities and reserves the right to access, review, copy, store or delete electronic communications or files. This includes any items stored on school-provided devices, such as files, e-mails, cookies and internet history. The school department reserves the right to disclose any electronic activity, including electronic communications, to law enforcement officials or third parties, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law. The school department will fully cooperate with local, state (including DESE), or federal officials in any lawful investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through the department's network.

In the event that a review shows improper use, appropriate action will be taken with the individual(s) in accordance with school disciplinary policy, copyright law and/or federal and state law. Improper use includes but is not limited to:

- Causing damage to computer technology equipment
- Altering computers or network equipment configurations
- Loading personal non-school purchased software onto a computer
- Hacking into other's folders or work files on a password protected server
- Using printer material for non-school business
- Use of computers and internet unrelated to intended educational use
- Downloading files for personal use, unrelated to proper educational use
- Use of school technology for personal gain or commercial use
- Use of computers for spam, advertising or political use
- Non-educational chat room or instant messaging use
- Use of an online computer to transmit, receive or display pornography; racially offensive or harassing messages; profanity; sexually explicit material; or threatening, defamatory, or other improper, socially unacceptable files
- Downloading or transmitting materials in violation of State, Federal and Copyright law

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the department blocks or filters content over the network that the department considers inappropriate for minors. This includes pornography, obscene material, and other material that may be harmful to minors. The department may also block or filter other content deemed to be inappropriate, lacking educational

or work-related content, or pose a threat to the network. The department may, in its discretion, disable such filtering for certain users for bona-fide research or other lawful or business purposes. Users shall not use any website application or methods to bypass this filtering of the network.

The department will work to protect the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Students should not reveal personal information about themselves or other students and should promptly disclose to their teacher or other school employee any message or other activity they receive that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable. Parents should also monitor their children's use of the internet when the school network is accessed from home or a non-school location.

Periodically, the Stoneham Public Schools will make determinations of whether new uses of technology remain consistent with this acceptable use practice.

The district shall educate all students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and about cyberbullying awareness and response.

Adopted: March 9, 2006
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