

STUDENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE AND INTERNET SAFETY

The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (MECDHH/GBSD) computers, network, and Internet access are provided to support the educational mission of the schools and to enhance the curriculum and learning opportunities for students and school staff. This policy and the accompanying rules also apply to laptops issued directly to students, whether they are used at school or off school premises.

Compliance with MECDHH/GBSD's policies and rules concerning computer and Internet use is mandatory. Students who violate these policies and rules may have their computer privileges limited, suspended, or revoked. The building principal is authorized to determine, after considering the circumstances involved, whether and for how long a student's computer privileges will be altered. The Director of Instruction's decision shall be final. The Director of Instruction's decision may be appealed to the Executive Director.

Violations of this policy and MECDHH/GBSD's computer and Internet rules may also result in disciplinary action, referral to law enforcement, and/or legal action.

MECDHH/GBSD's computers remain under the control, custody, and supervision of the school at all times. The school monitors all computer and Internet activity by students. Students have no expectation of privacy in their use of school computers, whether they are used on school property or elsewhere.

INTERNET SAFETY

MECDHH/GBSD uses filtering technology designed to block materials that are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors. Although MECDHH/GBSD takes precautions to supervise and monitor student use of the Internet, parents should be aware that the MECDHH/GBSD cannot reasonably prevent all instances of inappropriate computer and Internet use by students in violation of Board policies and rules, including access to objectionable materials and communication with persons outside of the school. The school is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information that students obtain through the Internet.

In the interest of student Internet safety, MECDHH/GBSD also educates students and or parents about online behavior, including interacting with other people on social networking sites and in chat rooms, the dangers of engaging in

“hacking” and other unlawful online activities, and issues surrounding “sexting” and cyberbullying awareness and response. The Executive Director/designee shall be responsible for integrating age-appropriate Internet safety training and “digital citizenship” into the curriculum and for documentation of Internet safety training.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY AND “ACCEPTABLE USE” RULES

The Executive Director/designee shall be responsible for implementation of this policy and the accompanying “acceptable use” rules. The Executive Director/designee may implement additional administrative procedures or school rules consistent with Board policy to govern Internet access and the day-to-day management, security, and operations of the school’s computer and network systems and to prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.

Students and parents shall be informed of this policy and the accompanying rules through student handbooks, the school website, and/or other means selected by the Executive Director.

Legal Reference: 20 USC § 677 (Enhancing Education through Technology Act)
47 USC § 254(h)(5) (Children’s Internet Protection Act)
47 CFR§ 54.52 (Children’s Internet Protection Act Certifications)
Federal Communications Commission Order and Report 11-125, (August 10, 2011)

Cross Reference: EGAD - Copyright Compliance
GCSA - Employee Computer and Internet Use
IJNDB-R - Student Computer and Internet Use Rules
IJND – Distance Learning Program

Board Approved: November 1, 2012