

## **COMPUTER NETWORK FOR EDUCATION**

### **I. Support for Use of Computer Network in District**

The Berlin Central School District Board of Education is committed to the District's promotion of ever-improved student learning and effective teaching. The Board believes that computer networks can be an effective and valuable tool in pursuing this objective.

The Board therefore supports and encourages the use of computers and computer-related technology in Berlin classrooms whenever such use is appropriate. Moreover, the Board supports and encourages computer network use as an integral part of the District's overall curriculum. It is the Board's belief that the network, through software applications, online databases, bulletin boards, electronic mail, and emerging features and uses of an electronic network, will enhance student learning, as well as provide local, statewide, national, and global communications opportunities for staff and students.

The Computer Network in the Berlin Central School District shall be subject to the following general policies and procedures:

- A. Use of a Technology Protection Measure that will block or filter internet access by both adults and minors, to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. It must also be able to monitor online activities of minors.
- B. Safety and security provision for minors using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of electronic communication.
- C. Prohibition of unauthorized access, including hacking and other unlawful activities by minors online.
- D. Prohibition of unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
- E. Restriction of access by minors to materials considered harmful to them.

### **II. Computer Use Coordination**

The Board establishes that the Superintendent of Schools or her/his designee shall coordinate computer use for the District. The Superintendent or her/his designee shall oversee the District's use of computer resources, and shall be responsible for preparing in-service training for District personnel in various and germane computer skills. It shall also be the

responsibility of the Superintendent or her/his designee to facilitate the use of computers in appropriate subject areas.

III. Hardware and Software Acquisition; District Technology Plan: Regulations

The Superintendent or her/his designee shall be responsible, with the assistance of the District's purchasing agent, and such instructional planning committees as may be required, for the purchase and distribution of computer hardware and software throughout the District's schools. The Superintendent or her/his designee shall prepare and submit to the Board for its approval a comprehensive, multi-year technology plan for the District. The plan thereby adopted by the Board shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to reflect changing technology and needs by the District.

The Superintendent shall also develop rules and regulations governing the use and security of the District's computer network.

IV. Consequences of Failure to Abide by Use Policies or Regulations

Failure by any employee of the District or any student to comply with District policy or regulations regarding the use of the computer network may result in disciplinary action. Such violation may also result in revocation of the person's computer access privileges.

V. Parental Notice

The District shall annually provide written notice to the parent or guardian of each secondary student in the District of the Board's policy on, and the pertinent administrative regulations governing, the District's computer network. Specifically, parents shall be advised of:

- A. Expectations of appropriate online conduct by users;
- B. Reasonable steps taken by the District to ensure that students use the network only for purposes that are consistent with the curriculum;
- C. The District's inability to prevent absolutely students' access to objectionable or inappropriate material posted on connecting computers by others; and
- D. The availability to any interested parent of a scheduled demonstration by District staff of the network and its educational capabilities.