

Appendix A

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NEWPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTERNET USE POLICY

The Newport Public Schools is committed to actively pursue making advanced technology and increased learning opportunities available to our students, staff, and community. The District believes that Internet access offers our educational community valuable resources for learning and communication with others. At the same time, we are aware that material in the Internet is uncensored and we can make no guarantees that information found on the Internet will be valuable, reliable, or inoffensive. However, we firmly believe that, with proper supervision, electronic controls, and compliance with State and Federal statutes, the vast amount of information available and the interaction with other people made possible via the Internet are valuable resources to enhance student learning. To the degree possible, instruction on and access to the Internet will be designed in a manner which points students to those resources which have been reviewed and evaluated prior to student use.

Access to the Internet within the Newport Public Schools is viewed as a privilege, not a right. That access entails responsibility. We expect all users of Newport Public Schools' Internet access will do so in a responsible manner and will be considerate of all other users. Students utilizing District-provided Internet access must have the permission of and must be supervised by the Newport Public Schools professional staff.

Internet use areas will be treated like class work and school lockers. Network administrators may view files, communications and sites visited to maintain system integrity and to insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files accessed or stored on district computers will be private. The district will not be held liable for any lost, damaged, or unavailable information because of technical or other difficulties.

Before access is granted to a student or community member, the user must annually read and sign the attached agreement for acceptable use of the Internet in the Newport Public Schools. Staff agreement forms will be signed once and kept on file.

Student access will also require the signature of a parent/guardian. While we realize that accidental access to unsuitable Internet areas may occur on occasion, repeated or intentionally inappropriate Internet use will result in suspension or revocation of that privilege and may result in further disciplinary and/or legal action.

The following will also apply to Internet use within the Newport Public Schools:

- 1.) All users of Internet within the Newport Public Schools are responsible for appropriate behavior on the Internet just as they are when involved in any school activity. General District and school rules and policies apply to all Internet activity and communication.
- 2.) The purpose of Internet access at school is to support research and educational goals. Use of the Internet must always support those goals.
- 3.) Unless explicit permission is granted, games and chat lines may not be used.
- 4.) Internet users must never:
 - Reveal personal addresses or phone numbers
 - Send or display offensive messages, data, graphics, or pictures
 - Use inappropriate language
 - Use another person's password or account
 - Share an e-mail account or password with anyone.
 - Violate copyright law by copying or using unauthorized copies of programs
 - Access other people's folders, files, or programs without permission
 - Use information without giving proper credit to the author
 - Harass, insult, or attack other Internet users
 - Use the Internet for any commercial purposes
 - Willfully destroy or vandalize other people's work, computers, or computer programs and files

Adopted: 12/9/97; Amended: 8/28/01

Newport Public Schools
Newport, Rhode Island

Newport Public Schools
Permission Form for Internet Access

Each student and a parent or guardian must read and sign this form prior to accessing school Internet facilities.

Student: _____

Current Grade: _____ **Homerroom:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone Number: _____

I understand and will abide by the terms and conditions for Internet access for the Newport Public Schools. I further understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. If I commit any violation, my access privileges may be suspended, revoked, school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

User Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

As a parent or guardian of this student, I have read and understand the terms and conditions for Internet access. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and that the Newport Public Schools will take reasonable precautions to restrict access to controversial material. I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial material, and I will not hold the Newport Public Schools responsible for materials acquired on the Internet. I hereby give permission to provide Internet access to my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____