

NETWORK/INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE

Laramie County School District #2 provides a telecommunications network accessible to all of its staff and eligible students as part of its overall goal of improving education. Responsible use of the network will enhance both educational and administrative activities.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. There may be some material, individual contacts or communications which are not suitable for school-aged children. The Laramie County School District #2 Board views information retrieval from the network in the same capacity as information retrieval from reference materials identified by schools. Specifically, the district supports those activities which will enhance the research and inquiry of the learner with directed guidance from faculty and staff. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover inappropriate information. At school, each student's access to and use of the network will be under the teacher's direction and monitored as a regular instructional activity. Internet use is logged and randomly reviewed for inappropriate use. The School District applies content filtering to information accessed through the Internet to block material inappropriate for the school setting and provides procedures for overriding the content filtering for bona fide research or other appropriate uses. The district, however, cannot prevent the possibility that some users may access material that is not consistent with the educational mission, goals and policies of Laramie School District #2.

General Policy and Guidelines

It is a general policy that Laramie District #2 School network facilities (referred to hereafter as "the network") are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of Laramie School District #2 Schools. Failure to adhere to the policy and guidelines may result in suspending or revoking the offender's privilege of access.

1. Acceptable uses of the network are activities which support learning and teaching. Use of the network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. Network users are encouraged to develop uses which meet their individual educational and/or professional needs and which take advantage of the network's functions. As new technologies emerge, there will be applications that should be evaluated for their appropriate use in a school setting.

2. Users shall not use the network for political campaigning; however, users may use the system to communicate with elected representatives to express their opinion on political issues.
3. Students and staff do not have an inherent right to personal or private use of district hardware or software. Users operating district hardware used outside of the district network are responsible for any viruses or malicious software that become installed on the hardware while it is used outside of the district network.
4. Non-district hardware may be connected to the district network only if such hardware is compatible with the network, is used in a manner consistent with district policies, and does not introduce problems into the network. Users are responsible for adherence to district regulations at all times. Users are also responsible for entering new network passwords when notified of password changes. Employees requesting network access for their own devices shall sign an annual agreement.
5. Network storage areas are not to be considered private or personal property of students or staff. If such files are used to excess, they may be cleared during maintenance of the network.

These guidelines will be included in student and staff handbooks for reference. They will also be posted on the district technology department's web site. Students and staff will need to sign an annual agreement acknowledging the conditions of this Acceptable Use Policy.

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Update: September 10, 2012

Updated: February 11, 2013