

## **SOUTH HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET APPROPRIATE USE**

The Board of Directors of the South Hamilton Community School District is committed to making available to students and staff members access to a wide range of electronic learning facilities, equipment, and software, including computers, computer network systems, and the internet.

The goal in providing this technology and access is to support the educational objectives and mission of the South Hamilton Community School District and to promote resource sharing, innovation, problem solving, and communication.

The District's computers, computer network and/or Internet connection is not a public access service or a public forum. The District has a right to place restrictions on the material accessed and/or posted through the use of its computers, computer network, and/or Internet connection.

Access to District technology resources is a privilege, not a guaranteed or protected right. Each student and staff member must have signed an acceptable use agreement, binding them to the terms and conditions of use, prior to any access to the District's computers, computer network, and Internet connection. The amount of time and type of access provided to the District's students and staff may be monitored and restricted by the District's technology settings.

All computers, computer network systems, and Internet connections provided to students and staff will be subject to the Children's Internet Protection Act known as CIPA. The following segment is from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) providing details of CIPA that apply to the District's computers, computer network, and Internet access.

### **What CIPA requires**

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy that includes technology protection measures. The protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors), before adopting this Internet safety policy, schools and libraries must provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposal.

Schools subject to CIPA have two additional certification requirements: 1) their Internet safety policies must include monitoring the online activities of minors; and 2) as required by the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, they must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyber bullying awareness and response.

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt and implement an Internet safety policy addressing:

- A. Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet
- B. The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications
- C. Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online
- D. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
- E. Measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them

Schools and libraries must certify they are in compliance with CIPA before they can receive E-rate funding.

In adherence with these federal rules and regulations:

Students and staff members shall only engage in appropriate, ethical, and legal utilization of the District's computers, computer network systems, and Internet access. Inappropriate use and/or access will result in the restriction and/or termination of this privilege and may result in further discipline for the staff members and students. Students may be suspended, expelled, and/or face legal action depending on the severity of the offense as determined by the Administrative Team at South Hamilton Community School District. Staff may be warned verbally, warned in writing, suspended with pay, suspended without pay, terminated from employment, and/or face legal action depending on the severity of the offense as determined by the Administrative Team at South Hamilton Community School District.

The District's Administration Team will use laws, regulations, and District Policies to determine what constitutes inappropriate use, and their decision is final when signed by the Superintendent of Schools.

The District's Director of Technology may close or suspend a user account of any student at any time as required to meet the requests of the District's Administrators, Faculty, and Parents as it relates to computer, computer network systems, and internet access. The District's Director of Technology may close or suspend a user account of any staff member at the request of any member of the District's Administrative Team. Students and staff members will be instructed and trained annually on this policy.

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