

POLICY GUIDE

RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

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3321 Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computing
Resource and Resources by Teaching Staff Members

3321 ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER NETWORK(S)/COMPUTING RESOURCES
AND RESOURCES BY TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the manner in which information is accessed, communicated and transferred that those changes will alter the nature of teaching and learning. Access to telecommunications will allow teaching staff members to explore databases, libraries, Internet sites, bulletin boards and the like while exchanging information with individuals throughout the world. The Board supports access by teaching staff members to information sources but reserves the right to limit in-school use to materials appropriate to educational purposes. The Board directs the Superintendent to effect training of teaching staff members in skills appropriate to analyzing and evaluating such resources as to appropriateness for educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes that telecommunications will allow teaching staff members access to information sources that have not been pre-screened using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer network(s) and declares unethical, unacceptable, inappropriate or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privileges, instituting legal action or taking any other appropriate action as deemed necessary.

The Board provides access to computer network(s)/computing resources for administrative and educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate teaching staff member's access to the computer network(s)/computing resources at any time, for any reason. The Board retains the right to have the Superintendent or designee monitor network activity, in any form necessary, to maintain the integrity of the resource and ensure proper use.

Standards for Use of Computer Network(s)

Any individual engaging in the following actions declared unethical, unacceptable or illegal when using computer network(s)/computing resources shall be subject to discipline or legal action:

1. Using computer network(s)/computing resources for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities which violate federal, state, local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the network(s). Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.

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2. Using the computer network(s)/computing resources to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.
3. Using resources in a manner that:
 - a. Intentionally disrupts network traffic, crashes the network or “intentionally harms the operational capacity of another computing device;
 - b. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
 - c. Uses the computing resources of the school district for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud;
 - d. Steals data or other intellectual property;
 - e. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another user;
 - f. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
 - g. Intentionally subverts, diverts or alters electronic mail messages or uses an account owned by others when not authorized to do so;
 - h. Invades privacy of others;
 - i. Possesses any data which is a violation of this policy; and/or
 - j. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer network(s)/computing resources are provided.

Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions as defined by Policy No. 3150, Discipline which includes but are not limited to:

1. Use of the network(s)/computing resources only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer privileges;

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5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension;
7. Dismissal;
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities; and/or
9. Any appropriate legal action that may be deemed necessary as determined by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-3

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