

**COMPUTER USE IN EDUCATION**

The North Merrick Board of Education is committed to optimizing student learning and teaching. The Board considers student access to a computer network, including the Internet, to be a powerful and valuable educational and research tool, and encourages the use of computers and computer-related technology in district classrooms solely for the purpose of advancing and promoting learning and teaching.

The computer network can provide a forum for learning various software applications and through online databases, bulletin boards and electronic mail, can significantly enhance educational experiences and provide statewide, national and global communication opportunities for staff and students.

All users of the district's computer network and the Internet must understand that use is a privilege, not a right, and that use entails responsibility. The district reserves the right to control access to the internet for all users of its computers and network. The district may either allow or prohibit certain kinds of online activities, or access to specific websites.

The Superintendent of Schools, working in conjunction with the Deputy Superintendent of Schools will establish regulations governing the use and security of the district's computer network. All users of the district's computer network and equipment shall comply with this policy and those regulations. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action as well as suspension and/or revocation of computer access privileges.

An administrator/teacher/staff member is expected to conduct his or her self in a manner consistent with his or her obligations as a role model when communicating with students via email, text, or on-line. Staff communication with students via email, text, or on-line shall: (1) be consistent with professional obligations as a role model; (2) not constitute bullying, harassment and/or discrimination; and (3) provide each student in a class with an equal opportunity to engage in the mode and manner of communication in order to avoid any appearance of favoritism or appearance of impropriety.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for designating a computer network coordinator to oversee the use of district computer resources. The computer coordinator will prepare in-service programs for the training and development of district staff in computer skills, and for the incorporation of computer use in appropriate subject areas.

The Superintendent, working in conjunction with the designated purchasing agent for the district, the computer network coordinator, the district administrators for business and instruction will be responsible for the purchase and distribution of computer software and hardware throughout

district schools. They shall prepare and submit for the Board's approval a comprehensive multi-year technology plan which shall be revised as necessary to reflect changing technology and/or district needs.

With increased concern about identity theft, unwarranted invasion of privacy, and the need to protect personally identifiable information, prior to students being directed or permitted by staff to use any cloud-based educational software or applications, staff must get approval from the Superintendent or the Deputy Superintendent. The Superintendent will determine if a formal contract is required with the software company, or if the terms of service are sufficient to address privacy and security requirements, and if parental permission is needed.

Revised First Reading: October 8, 2013

Adoption date: November 12, 2013

Revised First Reading: October 6, 2016

Adoption date: November 7, 2016

Revised First Reading: January 9, 2019

Adoption date: February 12, 2019