

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 97-0325-PO2  
POLICY ON STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE  
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NETWORK**

**POLICY TEXT:**

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**A. Authorized Users**

The Chicago Public Schools provide computers and network capabilities to students for the purpose of enhancing instruction through technological resources. The Chicago Public Schools uses filtering and blocking technology to protect against access through the Internet to material that is obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors. Amendments to the policy bring the Chicago Public Schools in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act. The Chicago Public Schools may make Internet access or electronic mail ("e-mail") available to students on the CPS Network as educational resources. It is a general policy of the Chicago Public Schools to promote the use of computers in a manner that which is responsible, legal and appropriate. Student use of the CPS Network is a privilege. A student's failure to adhere to the Student Acceptable Use Policy ("Policy") will result in the revocation of the student's access privileges. Should a student's access privileges be revoked, there shall be no obligation to provide a subsequent opportunity for access to the CPS Network.

**B. Disclaimer**

The Chicago Public Schools uses filtering software to screen Internet sites for offensive material. The Internet is a collection of thousands of worldwide networks and organizations that contain millions of pages of information. Users are cautioned that many of these pages contain offensive, sexually explicit, and inappropriate material, included, but not limited to the following categories: Adult Content; Nudity; Sex; Gambling; Violence; Weapons; Hacking; Personals/Dating; Lingerie/Swimsuit; Racism/Hate; Tasteless; and Illegal/Questionable. In general it is difficult to avoid at least some contact with this material while using the Internet. Even innocuous search requests may lead to sites with highly offensive content. Additionally, having an e-mail address on the Internet may lead to receipt of unsolicited e-mail containing offensive content. Users accessing the Internet do so at their own risk and the Board of Education of the City of Chicago is not responsible for material viewed or downloaded by users from the Internet. No filtering software is one hundred percent effective and it is possible that the software could fail. In the event that the filtering software is unsuccessful and children and staff gain access to inappropriate and/or harmful material, the Board of Education of the City of Chicago will not be liable. To minimize these risks, your use of the Internet, Intranet, computer access and electronic mail is governed by this policy.

**II. USE OF THE CPS NETWORK'S SERVICES**

Improper use of the CPS Network is prohibited. Uses of the CPS Network that are prohibited include, but are not limited to:

1. Use of the CPS Network for, or in support of, any illegal purposes;

2. Use of the CPS Network for, or in support of, any obscene or pornographic purposes; this includes, but is not limited to, the retrieving or viewing of any sexually explicit material;
3. Violation of any provision of Illinois School Student Records Act, which governs students' rights to privacy and the confidential maintenance of certain information including, but not limited to, a student's grades and test scores;
4. Use of profanity, obscenity or language that is generally considered offensive or threatening to persons of a particular race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or to persons with disabilities;
5. "Reposting" or forwarding personal communications without the author's prior consent;
6. Copying commercial software in violation of state, federal, or international copyright laws;
7. Using the CPS Network for financial gain or for the transaction of any business or commercial activities;
8. Plagiarizing (claiming another person's writings as your own) any information gained on or through the CPS Network or any other network access provider;
9. Using the CPS Network for political lobbying;
10. Intentionally disrupting the use of the CPS Network for other users, including, but not limited to, disruptive use of any process, program, or tool for ascertaining passwords or engaging in "hacking" of any kind, including, but not limited to, the illegal or unlawful entry into an electronic system to gain secret information;
11. Providing access to the CPS Network to unauthorized individuals; and
12. Use of the CPS Network to violate any provision of the Chicago Public Schools Uniform Discipline Code.
13. Users may not use a modem to dial into any online service provider, Internet Service Provider (I.S.P.) or connect through a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) while connected to the CPS network, as this poses a security risk to the CPS network through these connections.

### **III. -II. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The privilege of using the CPS Network is free to students of the Chicago Public Schools.

The student to whom an account on the CPS Network is issued is responsible, at all times, for its proper use.

A Responsible Student User of the CPS Network:

- **MAY** keep a free account on the CPS Network as long as he or she is a student in the Chicago Public Schools;
- **MAY** use the Internet to research assigned classroom projects;
- **MAY** use the Internet to send e-mail to other users of the CPS Network and to people around the globe;
- **MAY** use the Internet to explore other computer systems.

A Responsible Student User of the CPS Network:

- **SHOULD** change his or her password frequently;
- **SHOULD NOT** give his or her password to another person.

A Responsible Student User of the CPS Network:

- **UNDERSTANDS** that NONE of his or her communications and information accessible through the CPS Network is considered private or confidential and the Chicago Public Schools reserves the right to access all user accounts, at any time, including student electronic mail;
- **UNDERSTANDS** the CPS Network Student Acceptable Use Policy before logging on;
- **UNDERSTANDS** that if the CPS Network Student Acceptable Use Policy is violated, the student's account on the CPS Network will be revoked;
- **UNDERSTANDS** that if he or she is removed from CPS Network by a school faculty member that he or she has the right to appeal the removal within thirty (30) days, in writing, to the principal of the school. The school principal's decision shall be FINAL.
- **UNDERSTANDS** that if he or she is removed from the CPS Network, there shall be no obligation to provide a subsequent opportunity to access the Network.

**IV. ~~III.~~ PARENT OR GUARDIAN CONSENT FOR STUDENT USE OF THE CPS NETWORK**

Prior to the activation of a student's account on the CPS Network, the parent or guardian of the student must provide written authorization in the form outlined in Attachment A.

**IV. STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND INTERNET TEST**

All students to whom an account on the CPS Network has been assigned shall sign a form acknowledging the requirements of the Policy on student acceptable use and verifying his or her successful completion of the CPS Network Student Internet Test. A copy of the Student Internet Test is provided in Attachment B. The acknowledgment form is provided as Attachment C.

**VI. LESS RESTRICTED INTERNET ACCESS**

Student Users may apply for less restrictive access to the Internet to conduct bona fide academic research under the supervision of a teacher or administrator.

Application for less restrictive filtering access shall be made to a team consisting of Curriculum and Instruction and the Office of Information Technology with the approval of the teacher and principal. The application must detail the reason for the less restrictive access to the Internet, include the length of time such access is needed and the name of the staff member who will be monitoring the student's use of the Internet.

**VII. WAIVER OF PRIVACY, MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT**

Users do not have a personal privacy interest in anything created, received or stored on the Internet, Intranet, or electronic mail systems, as these systems are neither secure nor private.

User expressly waives any right of privacy in anything they create, store, send or receive using the Chicago Public Schools' computer equipment or Internet access. User consents to allow the Chicago Public Schools' personnel access to and review of all materials created, stored, sent or received by the User through any of the Chicago Public Schools' network or Internet connections.

The Chicago Public Schools has the right to monitor and log any and all aspects of its computer system including, but not limited to, monitoring internet sites visited by users, monitoring chat newsgroups, monitoring file downloads, and all communications sent and received by users.

The Chicago Public Schools has the right to monitor Internet, intranet, and electronic mail use to ensure that these resources are being used for business purposes, consistent with this policy.

When a school faculty member determines that a User has made inappropriate use of computer equipment or the Internet the faculty member may remove the User from CPS Network. The User may appeal this decision directly to the school principal within 30 days.

Noted:

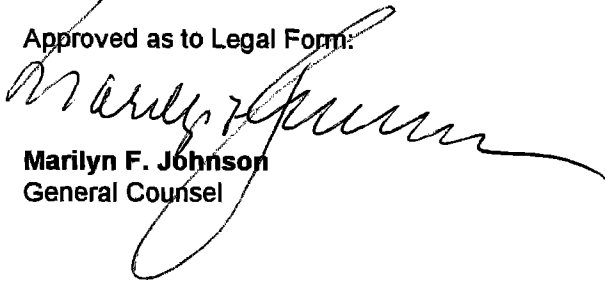


**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer



**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



**Marilyn F. Johnson**  
General Counsel