

# POLICY

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53  
(Okanagan Similkameen)

## INTERNET ACCESS AND USE

Reference: E-3

Approved: May 28, 2008

### INTERNET ACCESS AND USE

The Internet, a global electronic information infrastructure, is a network of networks used by educators, businesses, the government, the military, and organizations. In schools and libraries, the Internet can be used to educate, to inform, and to entertain. As a learning resource, the Internet is similar to books, magazines, video, CD-ROM, and other information. The Board recognizes the educational value of accessing the Internet by students and staff and encourages its use.

Students and staff use the Internet to participate in distance learning activities, to ask questions of and consult with experts, to communicate with other individuals, and to locate material to meet their educational and personal information needs. School library media specialists and teachers have a professional responsibility to work together to help students develop the intellectual skills needed to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and to evaluate and use information to meet their educational goals.

Because the Internet is a fluid environment, the information which will be available to students and staff is constantly changing; therefore, it is impossible to predict with certainty what information might be located. Just as the purchase, availability, and use of media materials do not indicate endorsement of their contents by school officials, neither does making electronic information available to students and staff imply endorsement of that content.

The networking environment requires guidelines for student and staff exploration and use of electronic information resources. Such guidelines address issues of privacy, ethical use of information with respect to intellectual property, using the networks for illegal activities, or knowingly spreading embedded messages or other computer programs that have the potential of damaging or destroying programs or data.

# REGULATION

## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

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#### INTERNET ACCESS AND USE

1. Use of School District No. 53 NET shall be solely for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information in furtherance of education and research, and will be consistent with the purposes and objectives of School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen), and other members of School District No. 53 NET.
2. A School District No. 53 NET user shall not purposefully transmit, download, or access information where the message or its distribution would violate any applicable law or regulation. The information shall not pertain to the preparation, assembly, use, and/or distribution of explosives/weapons of all types or be obscene, pornographic, abusive, discriminatory, violent, defamatory, racial, intimidating, or related to gambling, or otherwise likely to be of an offensive nature.
3. Transmitting, downloading or accessing any of the above will result in discipline as reflected in district and/or school policies. Specifically, where violent, intimidating or explosives/weapons-related material is transmitted, downloaded or accessed, the Weapons, Violence, and Intimidation Policy will apply.
4. Users of School District No. 53 NET shall promote efficient use of the public networks to minimize, and avoid if possible, congestion of the networks and interference with the work of other network users. Further, users of School District No. 53 NET services shall respect the rights and property of others and shall not improperly access, misappropriate or misuse the information or files of other users.
5. School District No. 53 NET shall not be used for commercial or entrepreneurial purposes. Advertising of commercial or entrepreneurial offerings is forbidden.
6. Security on any inter or intranet is a high priority. No one may use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with internet or email systems may be denied access to School District No. 53 NET.
7. Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in further legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet or other networks connected to School District No. 53 NET. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
8. Any use of School District No. 53 NET that accesses sources beyond School District No. 53 NET itself shall conform to the Acceptable Use Policies of those other sources.
9. Downloading of copyrighted/unlicensed music, or any peer to peer sharing, is strictly prohibited. In addition, all users must be familiar with copyright laws and ensure any information utilized is done in a manner consistent with copyright legislation.
10. Interpretation, application, and modification of this Acceptable Use Policy shall be within the sole discretion of School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen).