

**SUBJECT: STUDENT USE OF COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION RESOURCES  
(ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY)**

The Board of Education will provide access to various computerized information resources through the BOCES computer system ("BCS" hereafter) consisting of software, hardware, computer networks and electronic communications systems. This may include access to electronic mail, so-called "on-line services" and the "Internet." It may include the opportunity for some students to have independent access to the BCS from their home or other remote locations. All use of the BCS, including independent use off school premises, shall be subject to this policy and accompanying regulations. Further, all such use must be in support of education and/or research and consistent with the goals and purposes of the BOCES.

One purpose of this policy is to provide notice to students and parents/guardians that, unlike most traditional instructional or library media materials, the BCS will allow student access to external computer networks not controlled by the BOCES where it is impossible for the BOCES to screen or review all of the available materials. Some of the available materials may be deemed unsuitable by parents/guardians for student use or access. This policy is intended to establish general guidelines for acceptable student use. However, despite the existence of such BOCES policy and accompanying guidelines and regulations, it will not be possible to completely prevent access to computerized information that is inappropriate for students. Furthermore, students may have the ability to access such information from their home or other locations off school premises. Parents/guardians of students must be willing to set and convey standards for appropriate and acceptable use to their children when using the BCS or any other electronic media or communications.

**Standards of Acceptable Use**

Generally, the same standards of acceptable student conduct which apply to any school activity shall apply to use of the BCS. This policy does not attempt to articulate all required and/or acceptable uses of the BCS; nor is it the intention of this policy to define all inappropriate usage. Administrative regulations will further define general guidelines of appropriate student conduct and use as well as proscribed behavior.

BOCES students shall also adhere to the laws, policies and rules governing computers including, but not limited to, copyright laws, rights of software publishers, license agreements, and student rights of privacy created by federal and state law.

Students who engage in unacceptable use may lose access to the BCS in accordance with applicable due process procedures, and may be subject to further discipline under the BOCES conduct and discipline policy and the BOCES Code of Conduct. The BOCES reserves the right to pursue legal action against a student who willfully, maliciously or unlawfully damages or destroys property of the BOCES. Further, the BOCES may bring suit in civil court against the parents/guardians of any student who willfully, maliciously or unlawfully damages or destroys BOCES property pursuant to General Obligations Law Section 3-112.

Student data files and other electronic storage areas will be treated like school lockers. This means that such areas shall be considered to be BOCES property subject to control and inspection. The BOCES may access all such files and communications without prior notice to ensure system integrity and that users are complying with the requirements of this policy and accompanying regulations. Students should **NOT** expect that information stored on the BCS will be private.

### **Notification/Authorization**

The BOCES Acceptable Use Policy and Regulations will be disseminated to parents and students in order to provide notice of the BOCES requirements, expectations, and students' obligations when accessing the BCS.

"Affirmative Consent" (Opt-in) Student use of the BCS is conditioned upon written agreement by all students and their parents/guardians that student use of the BCS will conform to the requirements of this policy and any regulations adopted to ensure acceptable use of the BCS. All such agreements shall be kept on file in the appropriate BOCES Office.

Regulations will be established as necessary to implement the terms of this policy.

**Adopted: June 9, 2010**