

BPS Internet Acceptable Use Policy

In order for a student to use the Brockton Public Schools connection, they must read these guidelines and sign the policy. The policy must also be signed by a parent or guardian for anyone under 18 years of age.

Internet - Guidelines for Use

The Internet is a vast, global network, linking computers at universities, high schools, science labs and other sites. The Internet enables one to communicate with people all over the world through a number of discussion forums, as well as through electronic mail. In addition, files on the Internet are available for downloading, many of which are of educational value. Because of its enormous size, the Internet's potential is boundless. It is possible to speak with everyone from prominent scientists to world leaders to a friend at college. However, with such great potential for education also comes some potential for abuse. It is the purpose of these guidelines, as well as the policy for the Internet use, to make sure that all who use the Internet, both students and faculty, use this valuable resource in an appropriate manner.

The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct. Such conduct would include, but is not limited to, the placing of unlawful and/or inappropriate information on a system, the use of abusive or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private messages, the sending of messages that are likely to result in the loss of recipients' work or systems, the sending of "chain letter" or "broadcast" messages to lists or individuals, any other types of use which would cause congestion of the networks or otherwise interfere with the work of others, as well as the use of the Internet in a manner which would violate the copyright and/or trademark laws of the United States.

Because of the size of the Internet, many kinds of materials eventually find their way onto the system. Should a user happen to find materials which may be deemed inappropriate while using the Brockton Public Schools Internet account, the user shall refrain from downloading this material, and shall not identify or share the location of this material. Be aware that the transfer of certain kinds of materials is illegal and punishable by fine or jail sentence. In addition, the Brockton Public Schools takes no responsibility for an information or materials that are transferred through the Internet.

The primary purpose of the Internet connection is educational. It is essential that everyone who uses this connection understand that purpose. Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will be private. During school time, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for guidance as they do with other information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

The Brockton Public Schools makes no guarantees, implied or otherwise,

regarding the reliability of the data connection. Neither the Brockton Public Schools nor the sponsor organizations shall be liable for an loss or corruption of data resulting from use of the Internet connection.

No user shall use this Internet link to perform any act that may be construed as illegal or unethical, including the use of the link to gain unauthorized access to other systems on the network.

The Brockton Public Schools strongly condemns the illegal distribution of software, otherwise known as pirating. Any user caught transferring such files through the Internet, and any whose accounts are found to contain such illegal files, shall immediately have their accounts revoked.

All users should keep in mind that when they use the Internet, they are entering a global community, and any actions taken by them will reflect upon the Brockton Public Schools as a whole. As such, all users must behave in an ethical and legal manner.

In summary, the following are not permitted:

- **sending or displaying offensive or false messages or pictures**
- **using obscene language**
- **harassing, insulting or attacking others**
- **damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks**
- **violating copyright laws**
- **using another's password**
- **trespassing in another's folders, work or files**
- **employing the network for commercial purposes**

Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

[Top of Page](#)