

BROOKLINE TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)

1 4 b. Technology Education and Student Technology Use Policy (Revised Policy)

Definitions

Technology: A range of hardware and software tools used to enhance learning, promote progress, and facilitate communications.

Inappropriate: Unsuitable or destructive, such as, but not limited to, spreading computer viruses, using profane, vulgar, threatening, defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, harassing, or otherwise objectionable or criminal language in a public or private message.

Academic: Related to scholarly performance in school, or any other work related to school.

1 4 b. 1. Technology Education

The Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) views technology as an important tool for advancing educational excellence. In keeping with the system's educational mission, teachers now use and introduce to students a variety of new technologies in order to help students learn more effectively. These new technologies present opportunities as well as special challenges for all citizens. This policy, and its related administrative procedures that include a student/parent or guardian contract, is designed to ensure that our students utilize new technologies responsibly.

1 4 b. 2. Student Technology Use

The purpose of student use of technology (including but not limited to computers, PSB network, and the Internet) in schools is academic. Therefore, by this policy, the PSB notifies all student users and their parents/guardians that they must understand the following:

- PSB makes every reasonable effort to minimize the risk that student users will encounter inappropriate material on the Internet during school. However, there is no absolute guarantee that our efforts will be successful. Therefore, PSB takes no responsibility for non-school information or materials that are transferred through the PSB network and/or the Internet;
- PSB requires students, when using school technology, to refrain from intentionally viewing and/or downloading inappropriate non-academic material. If a student is unsure if material is inappropriate, said student should consult with his/her teacher. The consequences of violating this policy are outlined in the contract related to the policy and referred to in the last paragraph.
- PSB requires all students to refrain from utilizing computers, networks or telephone systems for any communications which could be interpreted as means for bullying,

threatening, or in any other manner designed to frighten or inappropriately inhibit or influence the actions of any other individual.

- PSB will not be liable for the actions of anyone connecting to the Internet through the PSB network. All users shall assume full liability, legal, financial, or otherwise, for their actions;
- PSB makes no guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding the reliability of the data connection. Accordingly, the PSB shall not be liable for any loss or corruption of data resulting from use of the network;
- PSB reserves the right to review and/or inspect all student work (data) stored in its computers, on its storage media, and on its servers at any time;
- PSB prohibits the illegal distribution of software or files, otherwise known as “pirating”. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material. Any students using our network to transfer such software and/or files, and any whose accounts are found to contain such illegal software and/or files, may have their accounts permanently revoked and may be reported to appropriate legal authorities;
- PSB reminds all student users that when they use the Internet, they are entering a global community, and any actions taken by them will reflect upon the school system as a whole. As such, all student users must behave in an ethical, respectful, responsible and legal manner in connection with such use;
- PSB reserves the right to change or modify this policy, or any related contract or procedure, at any time without prior notice, due to the changing nature of technology and its usage.

Notification to Students and Parents/Guardians

PSB will develop administrative procedures to ensure:

- that at the beginning of each school year, all students to whom this policy applies and their parents/guardians, will be notified about this policy, and will receive a copy of it, along with the related contract;
- that students are educated, in age-appropriate language, as to the specifics of what the contract contents actually mean, and
- that the contracts are signed, collected and retained in an appropriate location, and become part of the student’s record.