

Student Access to Networked Information Resources

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It is the belief of the Pickens County Board of Education that the use of technology for the purpose of information acquisition, retrieval, manipulation, distribution and storage is an important part of preparing children to live in the 21st century. The Board further believes that a "technology rich" classroom can significantly enhance both the teaching and learning process. This technology includes computer hardware, software, local and wide area networks and access to the Internet. Due to the complex nature of these systems and the magnitude of information available via the Internet, the Pickens County Board of Education believes guidelines regarding acceptable use are warranted in order to serve the educational needs of students.

It shall be the policy of the Pickens County Board of Education that the school system shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying "technology protection measure," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b) (1) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000;
2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in Section 1703(b) (1) and (2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to:
 - a) Provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;
 - b) Promote the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
 - c) Prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unauthorized activities by minors online;
 - d) Prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and restrict minors' access to materials "harmful to minors," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b) (2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000.