

School District No. 22 (Vernon)

POLICY

Please file in By-Laws, Policy & Procedure Manual

No. 3.16.0

Adopted: 16 Jan. 1996
Amended: June 16, 2009

STUDENT AND STAFF ACCESS TO NETWORKED INFORMATION RESOURCES

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies change the ways that information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of the society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. Because electronic information research skills are now fundamental to the preparation of educated citizens, the Board generally supports access by students and staff to information resources along with the development of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. To that end, the district will make the provincial network (PLNet) available to students and staff.

The Board expects that staff will blend thoughtful use of such information throughout the curriculum and that the staff will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources. Staff will consult the guidelines for instructional materials contained in Board Policy and Procedure 3.6.0 and will honour the criteria for selection of instructional materials contained therein.

Communications on the PLNet will often be public in nature. Students and staff are responsible for their behaviour on school computers and PLNet just as they are in a classroom or a school hall way. General school rules and standards for behaviour and communications apply. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others for educational purposes. Access to network services will be provided to students and staff who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. The Superintendent or system administrator may suspend or terminate a person's access in accordance with the PLNet Acceptable Use Regulations.

Access to telecommunications will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards and exchange messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefits to students from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using

media and information sources. To that end, the Board of Trustees supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not each child has access to telecommunications at home or school.

Student use of telecommunications and electronic information resources will be permitted upon submission of approved acceptable use forms signed by both parents and by students. Such access will normally be granted only on school equipment. Independent access by modem from other locations such as a home computer will only be granted at the discretion of the Superintendent and then only in unusual circumstances.

Independent staff use of telecommunications and electronic information resources will be permitted upon submission of approved acceptable use forms.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to prepare appropriate procedures for implementing this policy and for reviewing and evaluating its effect on instruction and student achievement.