

WRSD Information Network

Acceptable Use Policy

The intent of this document is to serve as a statement on the proper and acceptable use of computer technology and the WRSD Information Network (WRSD IN) for all users in the school district.

Definition:

The definition of "Information Network" is any configuration of hardware and software that connects users. The network includes all of the computer hardware, operating system software, application software, stored text and data files. This includes the Internet, electronic mail, Web pages, local databases, externally accessed databases, CD-ROM, recorded magnetic or optical media, clip art, digital images, digitized information, communications technologies, and new technologies as they become available. Stand-alone workstations are also governed by this acceptable use procedure.

Educational Purpose:

The purpose of the WRSD IN is educational. Users are responsible for ensuring that their activities adhere to generally accepted educational standards. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. We believe the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed the disadvantages.

It is the purpose of the WRSD IN to enhance established school curriculum. While there will be some need to instruct learners in the skills needed to make use of the network, its purpose will be to serve as a resource for improving, extending, and enriching teaching and learning in the Winnisquam Regional School District.

Internet:

One component of the Information Network is a connection to the Internet. The Internet is a vast, global information network, linking computers at universities, high schools, science labs and other sites. Through the Internet one can communicate with people all over the world and obtain files and programs of educational value. The WRSD does not provide or typically allow Email accounts for students. For educational purpose an exception may be made with an instructor's request, full monitoring and responsibility. Students should not access any other Email accounts through the use of the WRSD IN. Logging in and/or activity in Chat rooms, Blogs and Gaming sites is not allowed.

Due to the Internet's limitless access to computer systems located all over the world, the potential for abuse exists. Users and parents/guardians of users who are minors must understand that neither the WRSD nor any district staff member controls the vast content of the information available on these other systems. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. **The Winnisquam Regional School District does not condone the use of such materials.** While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to or accidentally access other material. **For this purpose and in compliance with recent legislation (CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT, Pub. L. 106-554), we do maintain current filtering and logging technology that can and does reduce this occurrence.** The filtering system is updated weekly to block sites that are harmful or inappropriate for students. As with any filtering system websites emerge constantly that may not be immediately identified by the software. If a student comes across a site that is suspicious they should immediately report it to a teacher or supervisor. Students who attempt to circumvent the filter will be disciplined under the terms of this policy. Log files are maintained and monitored for a two (2) week period after which time they are purged from the system and no longer available.

Privilege:

The use of the WRSD IN is a privilege and not a right. Inappropriate use will result in disciplinary actions. These actions will be determined by factors such as the actual incident of inappropriate use, the particular user (grade level / position). Legal implications may occur if there is involvement with any activity prohibited by law.