



General Brown Central School District Internet Safety Policy June 2002

- I. **Rationale.** The General Brown Central School District realizes the rich educational value of information contained on the Internet. The World Wide Web is of immense utility to teachers, staff, and students. It may be utilized to undertake research, participate in electronic lessons, such as virtual field trips, and the information that it provides is derived from sources that span the entire world.
 - A. While the General Brown Central School District realizes the immense educational value that the Internet brings to our schools and the value of the Internet as an educational tool, it also understands that information with no redeeming social value is accessible through the Internet.
 - B. The General Brown Central School District has developed and will enforce this Internet Safety Policy in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA). In addition, the General Brown Central School District maintains its "Acceptable Use Policy for Network and Internet Use," which governs the acceptable use of the network by students and employees.
 - C. General Brown Central School District personnel located at component schools will abide by that district's Internet safety policy implemented at that school. If the district does not have an Internet safety policy in place, General Brown Central School District personnel will follow the Internet safety policy as specified in this document.
 - D. All General Brown Central School District personnel and students located at any location other than a local school district building will follow the Internet safety policy as specified in this document.
- II. **Access to the Internet using the General Brown Central School District computer equipment is subject to the following restrictions:**
 - A. **Filtering** – Filtering software will be used to block minors' access to visual depictions that are obscene¹, child pornography¹, or harmful to minors¹.

¹ The terms "obscene," "child pornography," "harmful to minors," and "matter inappropriate for minors," used throughout the policy, are defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (Public Law 106-554).

B. Adult Access to the Internet - Adult access to visual depictions that are obscene and/or child pornography will also be blocked. However, the Superintendent or his/her designee may disable the filtering software to enable access to blocked sites for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

C. Matter Inappropriate for Minors. The Board will (from time to time) determine by resolution what Internet material is “inappropriate for minors” in the General Brown Central School District. This determination will be based on community standards.

D. Safety of Minors When Using Direct Electronic Communications

1. In using the computer network and Internet, minors are not permitted to reveal personal information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, their real last names, or any information.

2. As per the *General Brown Central School District Computer Technology Disciplinary Code*, there is to be “No student e-mail or accessing of any computer account outside of the General Brown Network” and “Interactive communication is strictly prohibited (i.e. chat rooms, instant messengers, e-mail).”

E. Unauthorized Access and Other Unlawful Activities. It is a violation of this Policy to:

1. use the General Brown School District computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access;

2. damage, disable or otherwise interfere with the operation of computers, computer systems, software or related equipment through physical action or by electronic means; and/or

3. violate state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or any other applicable law or municipal ordinance.

F. Unauthorized Disclosure and Dissemination of Personal Identification Information Regarding Minors. Personally identifiable information concerning minors may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet (e.g., on the General Brown School District webpage or otherwise) without the permission of a parent or guardian. If a student is 18 or over, the permission may also come from the student himself/herself.

III. Procedure for Review of Filtering Policy In Which an Individual Has a Concern About Implementation.

- A. For any complaint concerning implementation of filtering, an attempt should be made to resolve the issue informally.
- B. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the individual will fill out a “Request for Review of Internet Filtering Form” and a committee appointed by the District Superintendent will consider this form. The committee may at the discretion of the District Superintendent include legal counsel. The individual submitting the request shall have the right to attend the meeting of the committee and present any arguments in support of his/her position. The committee will prepare a report containing recommendations. These recommendations may include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. If the request is from a student, the General Brown School District will provide adult supervision during scheduled times to allow the student access to the requested material.
 - 2. Make the necessary changes to the filtering servers.
 - 3. Deny the request.

The committee recommendation will be forwarded to the District Superintendent for disposition of the matter.

- C. If the complainant is still not satisfied, he/she may ask the Superintendent to present an appeal to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services Board which will make a final determination of the issue. The District Superintendent will deliver a copy of the Complaint, the report of the committee and his/her determination to The Board. The Board of Education may seek assistance from its legal counsel and outside organizations such as the American Library Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

IV. Regulations and Dissemination. The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement regulations consistent with this policy. The Superintendent will also be responsible for disseminating the policy and associated regulations to school personnel and students.
