Children’s Internet Protection Act: Internet Safety Policy

Introduction

It is the policy of Rio Rancho Public Schools to: (a) prevent, to the extent practical, user access or the transmission over its computer network to, of inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent, to the extent practical, unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent, to the extent practical, unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act. [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children’s Internet Protection Act

Access to Inappropriate Material

Rio Rancho Public Schools believes that staff supervision, an acceptable use procedure, electronic monitoring of Internet activity, and the use of technology protection measures are all parts of a comprehensive plan to protect students from inappropriate materials.

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet access to inappropriate information, or other forms of electronic communications, deemed inappropriate.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Rio Rancho Public Schools online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking’, and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
**Education, Supervision and Monitoring**

It shall be the responsibility of all members of Rio Rancho Public Schools staff to educate, supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children’s Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying of any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director of Information Technology, or the designated representatives.

The Executive Director, Information Technology or designated representatives will insure that age-appropriate training is provided for students who use the Rio Rancho Public School’s Internet resources. The training provided will be designed to promote commitment to:

1) The standards and acceptable use as set forth in this Internet Safety Policy;
2) Student safety with regard to:
   a) Safety on the Internet
   b) Appropriate behavior while online, using social networking sites, and
   c) Cyberbullying awareness and response
3) Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Reference: Additional policies 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 481

Rio Rancho Public Schools
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