SUBJECT: STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)

Student Use of District Computer Resources

The Homer Central School District provides access to various computerized information resources through technology. This technology may consist of software, hardware, computer networks, and electronic communications systems as well as electronic mail, on-line services, and the Internet. All use of District technology including access from off school premises, shall be subject to this policy and accompanying regulations. Further, all such use must be in support of education and/or research consistent with the goals and purposes of the Homer Central School District.

This policy establishes general guidelines for acceptable student use of District technology and the consequences of inappropriate use. This policy provides notice to students and parents/legal guardians that the technology will allow student access to external computer networks not controlled by the Homer Central School District. Some of the materials may be deemed unsuitable by parents/legal guardians for student use or access. Despite the existence of District Policy and accompanying guidelines and regulations, it will not be possible to completely prevent access to computerized information that is inappropriate for students.

Guidelines for Use

Generally, the same standards of acceptable student conduct which apply to any school activity shall apply to the use of District technology. This policy does not attempt to articulate all required and/or acceptable uses of the technology; nor is it the intention of this policy to define all inappropriate usage. Administrative regulations will further define general guidelines of appropriate student conduct and use as well as proscribed behavior.

Students are expected to use District technology within the guidelines and rules established by the Homer Central School District and within the ethical boundaries of good taste and social behavior expected of students in general school deportment.

District students shall adhere to the laws, policies, and rules governing computers including, but not limited to, copyright laws, rights of software publishers, license agreements, and student rights of privacy created by federal and state law.

Consequences of Inappropriate Use

The District provides access to these information resources; however, the Board will not accept liability for the misuse, illegal use, or inappropriate use of the technology, the loss of data or information due to hardware or software failure, or the downloading of inappropriate materials by students while using District technology.

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Students

SUBJECT: STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP) (Cont'd.)

Information stored on the computers and/or the network by students is not private. The District will treat student computer data files and other electronic storage areas under the same regulations as school lockers. This means that such areas shall be considered to be District property subject to control and inspection. A designee of the Superintendent may access all such files and communications to insure system integrity and to determine that users are complying with the requirements of this policy and accompanying regulations.

Students who engage in unacceptable use may lose access to the technology and may be subject to further discipline under the District's Student Behavior Policy and the Student Discipline Code. The District reserves the right to pursue legal action against a student who willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damages or destroys property of the District or engages in illegal activities. Further, the District may bring suit in civil court against the parents/legal guardians of any student who willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damages or destroys District property in accordance with General Obligations Law Section 34112.

Implementation

The Superintendent or his or her designee is authorized to establish regulations as necessary to implement the terms of this policy.

Definition - Independent Student Use

The use of District technology while not directly under the supervision or tutelage of District staff.

Program Implementation

Homer Central School District provides access to various computerized information resources through technology. This technology may consist of software, hardware, computer networks, network services, electronic communications systems, and the Internet. All use of District technology, including access from off school premises, shall be subject to the policy and regulation titled Student Use of Computerized Information Resources. Further, all such use must be in support of education and/or research consistent with the goals and purposes of the Homer Central School District.

General Requirements of Acceptable Student Behavior

The standards of acceptable use as well as prohibited conduct by students accessing the District technology, as outlined in District policy and regulations, are not intended to be all-inclusive. Students are responsible for good behavior on school networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. In addition to the specific standards of student conduct delineated in this regulation, the general requirements of the District's Student Behavior Policy and the Student Discipline Code also

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apply to student access to District technology. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply.

Staff Responsibilities

Legal and ethical implications of software use will be taught to students of all levels where there is such software use. In addition, the building principal or his or her designee will be responsible for informing District students of rules and regulations governing student access to District technology.

Staff will provide developmentally appropriate guides to students as they make use of telecommunications and electronic information resources to conduct research and other studies related to the District curriculum. As much as possible, access to the District's computerized information resources will be designed in ways which point students to those which have been reviewed and evaluated prior to use. While students may be able to move beyond those resources to others which have not been evaluated by staff, students shall be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to the learning objective.

Authorization

Students are provided an individual account which gives them independent access to the Internet for educational use.

Privacy

All data stored on District systems is the property of Homer Central Schools and may be monitored in any manner. Information stored on the computers and/or system is not private. The District will treat student computer data files and other electronic storage areas under the same regulations as school lockers. This means that such areas shall be considered to be District property subject to control and inspection. System administrators may access all such files and communications to insure system integrity and to determine that users are complying with the requirements of these regulations.

Acceptable Use

The use of student accounts, whether in school or off school premises, must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Homer Central School District. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Internet resources may not be used in violation of any U.S., state, or local regulation. Internet resources may not be used to upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit, or threatening material. Internet resources may not be used to infringe on copyright or to plagiarize materials.

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Privileges

The use of Homer's District technology is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges. Based upon the guidelines outlined in this document and in Homer School District policy, the system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the system administrators may close an account at any time as deemed necessary. The administration, faculty, and staff of Homer Central School District may request the system administrators to deny, revoke, or suspend specific student accounts.

Netiquette

Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited, to, the following:

a)   Students are to be polite. They should not write or send abusive messages to others, swear, or use vulgarities or other inappropriate language. They may not distribute pornographic, obscene or sexually explicit materials.

b)   Students are not to reveal their personal addresses or phone numbers or those of others.

c)   Students are to note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities.

d)   Students are not to use the network in such a way that they would disrupt the use of the network by other users (e.g., downloading huge files during prime time, sending mass email messages).

e)   Students are not to respond to unsolicited online contact.

f)   It is possible for students to purchase goods and services via the Internet, and these purchases could potentially result in unwanted financial obligations. This activity is prohibited on access through Homer Central School District's network.

g)   Students are not to subscribe to list servers, news groups, or chat rooms without specific permission of the system administrator.

Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Homer Central School District's network, any other networks that are connected to Homer Central School District, or the BOCES Internet backbone. This

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includes, but is not limited to, the intentional uploading, downloading, or creation of computer viruses. The District also reserves the right to pursue legal action against a student who willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damages or destroys property of the District.

Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Anyone who can identify a security problem on the District technology or Internet access must notify a system administrator and must not demonstrate the problem to other users. Students may not use another's individual accounts. Students may not give their passwords to any other individual. Attempts to log in to the system as any other user or as system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to Homer Central School District's network.

Exception of Terms and Conditions

All terms and conditions as stated in this document are applicable to the Homer Central School District. These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, United States of America.

Liability

The Homer Central School District will not be held liable for:

a) Information on data storage devices.

b) Information retrieved through the school computers, networks, or online resources.

c) Personal property used to access school computers, networks, or online resources.

d) Unauthorized financial obligations resulting from use of school resources and accounts to access the Internet.

Sanctions

a) Violations may result in suspension and/or revocation of student access to the District technology.

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b)   Additional disciplinary action may be determined at the building level in accordance with the District's Student Behavior Policy and Student Discipline Code.

c)   Legal action, including bringing suit in civil court, may be taken against a student who willfully. maliciously, or unlawfully damages or destroys property of the District.

Adopted: 12/10/96
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