

## **GRANITE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **INSTRUCTION**

#### **POLICY 6079: ACCESS TO NETWORKED INFORMATION RESOURCES**

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of the society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The Board generally supports access by students and staff to rich information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship.

Telecommunications, electronic information sources, and networked services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources. Instructional and library media materials are screened by committees of educators and community members intent on subjecting all such materials to reasonable selection criteria. Board Policy 6080 requires that all such materials be consistent with District-adopted guidelines, supporting and enriching the curriculum while taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students. Telecommunications, because they may lead to any publicly available fileservers in the world, will open classrooms to electronic information resources that have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees during an age of information. 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 6080 and will honor the goals for selection of instructional materials contained therein.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for student conduct apply. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner.

Communication over networks should not be considered private. Network supervision and maintenance may require review and inspection of directories or messages. Messages may sometimes be diverted accidentally to a destination other than the one intended. Privacy in these communications is not guaranteed. The District reserves the right to access stored records in cases where there is reasonable cause to expect wrongdoing or misuse of the system. Courts have ruled that old messages may be subpoenaed, and network supervisors may examine communications in order to ascertain compliance with network guidelines for acceptable use. Electronic mail and telecommunications are not to be utilized to share confidential information about students or other employees.

Independent student and staff use of telecommunications and electronic information resources will be permitted upon submission of permission forms and agreement forms by parents of minor students (under 18 years of age) and by students themselves. Regional networks such as WEDNET require agreement by users to acceptable use policies outlining standards for behavior and communication.

Access to telecommunications will enable students and staff to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefits to students and staff from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of students are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Granite Falls Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for independent access.

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.

CROSS REFERENCE

Policy 6077, 6078, 6080

**ADOPTED: DECEMBER 10, 1998**

**AMENDED: APRIL 27, 2000**

**AMENDED: AUGUST 19, 2009**