

# NEW HOPE- SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: OPERATIONS

TITLE: INFORMATION, NETWORK,  
AND BULLETIN BOARD

ADOPTED: August 5, 2002

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">815.1. INFORMATION, NETWORK, AND BULLETIN BOARD</p> <p>Worldwide access to information is radically changing our world and communication systems. A computer network, linked to the Internet, an international computer network made up of many contributing networks, represents a powerful educational resource unlike anything that precedes it.</p> <p>We are now able to use communicate and share information and knowledge using the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internet.</li><li>• E-mail.</li><li>• Bulletin Boards.</li><li>• Chat sessions.</li><li>• Video conferencing.</li><li>• Instant Messaging.</li><li>• Intranets.</li><li>• Our Local Network.</li></ul> <p>The skills required for using a computer network and Internet tools are vital to the long-term success of users when they enter higher education and the work force. New Hope-Solebury School District (NHSSD) is pleased to offer its students and staff access to its computer network (the NHSSD Network) and the Internet to enhance and support student learning.</p> <p>NHSSD is aware that the Internet is an unregulated communication environment in which information changes constantly, and that some of this information may be inappropriate for users, based on age and/or development levels. NHSSD's educators will take an active role in ensuring that students and their parents are aware of the individual user's responsibility in using the Internet resources in an ethical and educational manner. NHSSD's goal is to provide individual users with the understanding and skills needed to use the Internet in ways appropriate to their individual educational needs.</p>
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<p>2. Guidelines</p>	<p>NHSSD has developed the following policy regarding the acceptable use of its network and Internet tools to establish each user rights and responsibilities as well as to delineate certain prohibited activities.</p> <p><u>Rights</u></p> <p>Members of the NHSSD Network community have certain privileges and rights. Infringement of or disrespect to the rights of others may result in the loss of your network privileges.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Privacy/Monitoring Notification</b> - All computer communication systems, and all communications and stored information transmitted, received, or contained in the NHSSD Network's systems are NHSSD property and are to be used only for school-related purposes. All members of the NHSSD Network community have the right to privacy in their private electronic communications with respect to other students. However, to ensure proper use of the NHSSD Network, NHSSD may monitor the use of the NHSSD Network from time to time. This monitoring may include accessing a private correspondence or files. In the event there is a reasonable suspicion that a user is using the NHSSD Network in violation of the guidelines stated in this policy, a system administrator or teacher may gain access to a student's private correspondence or files without prior notice. System administrators also may need to access private files as part of regular system maintenance.</li><li><b>2. Equal Access</b> - All members of the network community will be granted free and equal access to as many network services as their rights and permissions allow. Exploration of the Internet, Intranet, and bulletin board is encouraged relative to the purposes of the NHSSD Network. However, no single user should monopolize a computer or the network it uses. You may be asked to remove personal files if total system storage space becomes low.</li><li><b>3. Safety</b> - To the greatest extent possible, members of the NHSSD Network community will be protected from harassment or unwanted or unsolicited contact. Any community member who receives threatening or unwelcome communications should bring them to the attention of a system administrator or teacher. Users must, however, be aware that there are many services available on the Internet that could potentially be offensive to certain groups of users. The Administrators of the NHSSD Network cannot eliminate access to all such services, nor could they even begin to identify all of them. Thus, individual users must take responsibility for their own actions in navigating the Internet.</li></ol>
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4. **Intellectual Freedom** - The NHSSD Bulletin Board must be a free and open forum for expression, including viewpoints that are strange, unorthodox or unpopular. However, the poster of an opinion should be aware that others may be openly critical of such opinions. Occasionally, a message that you post may be met with especially harsh criticism (a practice known as “flaming” or “slamming”). It is best not to respond to such attacks, unless you believe you are capable of a measured, rational reply. Personal attacks are not an acceptable use of the NHSSD Bulletin Board at any time. NHSSD does not officially endorse any opinions stated on the NHSSD Bulletin Board. Any statement of personal belief is implicitly understood to be representative of the author’s individual point of view, and not that of NHSSD as a whole.
5. **Information and Pictures on District sponsored web pages** - The NHSSD Web Page is a reflection of our education community and all that it has to offer. Unless notified NHSSD will post information, work, and pictures on district sponsored web pages. However specific names and pictures will not be published on the same page. If a student or staff member does not want to have their picture and/or name posted on the district web page the school principal must be notified in writing at the beginning of the school year.
6. **Illegal Activity** - The NHSSD Network will not be used for illegal activity, for profit purposes, lobbying, advertising, to transmit offensive materials, hate mail, discriminatory remarks, or to obtain obscene or pornographic material. In particular, there is to be no display or transmission of sexually explicit images, messages, or cartoons, or any transmission or use of e-mail communications that contain ethnic slurs, racial epithets, or anything that may be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or religious or political beliefs. The e-mail system should not be used to solicit or proselytize others for commercial ventures, religious or political causes, outside organizations, or other non-school district related solicitations.

Responsibilities

With the rights of membership in the NHSSD Network community come certain responsibilities. Users need to familiarize themselves with the responsibilities. Failure to adhere to them may result in the loss of NHSSD Network privileges. These responsibilities are listed in the District Procedures Manual and Student Handbooks.

Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority because there are so many users. If any NHSSD Network user identifies a security problem, s/he must notify the system administrator or a teacher at once without discussing it or showing it to another user. The user must not use another individual's NHSSD Network account. Any user identified as a security risk will be denied access to the NHSSD Network.

Consequences

An NHSSD Network user shall be responsible for damages to the equipment, systems or software resulting from deliberate or willful acts.

Failure to follow the procedures and prohibitions listed above may result in the loss of the right to access the NHSSD Network. Other appropriate disciplinary procedures may take place, as needed, for students.

Illegal use of the NHSSD Network, intentional deletion or damage to files of data belonging to others; copyright violations or theft of services will be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution.

Limitation of Liability

NHSSD makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the service it is providing. NHSSD will not be responsible for any problems suffered while on the Internet. These problems include but are not limited to loss of data as a result of delays or otherwise, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the Internet or users that include errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the user's own risk. NHSSD will not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet.

Policy Administration

NHSSD has implemented an electronic method for tracking student acceptance of this and other related policies. Failure to accept the policy will prevent the user from accessing network resources.