

**FILE: IHAJ**

**USE OF STUDENT COMPUTERS AND INTERNET RESOURCES**

The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf Board, hereinafter referred as the “Board”, believes that the use of computers in instructional programs is an educational tool which facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing and access to information. Due to the complex nature of accessible networks and magnitude of potential information available to students utilizing computers and the internet, the Board believes strict guidelines in the form of administrative procedures are warranted in order to reduce or limit potential negative effects. The global and fluid nature of the internet network’s contents make it impossible for the Board to completely regulate and monitor the information available to students. Although students will be under teacher supervision while on the network, it is impossible to constantly monitor all individual student and the information accessed. Thus, the Board makes no guarantees or predictions regarding the information which students may retrieve via the internet.

Students utilizing the computers and the internet shall comply with administrative procedures regarding computers and internet use. The Board, via its administrators, reserves the right to monitor all computer and internet activity by students. Privacy is not guaranteed. **The school administration will establish procedures that will ensure no unreasonable restriction of student communication with parents/guardians.**

In addition, use of computers and the internet is a privilege, not a right. As such, students violating this Board’s policy/administrative procedure shall be subject to revocation of privileges and potential disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action.

Parents shall be required to sign a permission form allowing their students to access the computers and the internet. Students shall also be required to sign an acknowledgement affirming that they have read and understand the Board’s policy/administrative procedure on “Use of Computers and Internet Resources” and understand the consequences for the violation of said policy/administrative procedure.

**Adopted: December 11, 1997**

**Edited for school name: January 2014**