

4526 COMPUTER NETWORK FOR EDUCATION

1. Support for Use of Computer Network in District

The Menands Union Free School District Board of Education is committed to the District's promotion of ever-improved student learning and effective teaching. The Board believes that computer networks can be an effective and valuable tool in pursuing this objective.

The Board therefore supports and encourages the use of computers and computer-related technology in Menands classrooms whenever such use is appropriate. Moreover, the Board supports and encourages computer network use as an integral part of the District's overall curriculum. It is the Board's belief that the network, through software applications, online databases, bulletin boards, electronic mail, and emerging features and uses of an electronic network, will enhance student learning, as well as provide local, statewide, national, and global communications opportunities for staff and students.

2. Appointment of Computer Coordinator

The Board therefore establishes that the Superintendent of Schools shall designate a computer coordinator for the District. The computer coordinator's function shall be to oversee the District's use of computer resources. The computer coordinator shall be responsible for preparing in-service training for District personnel in various and germane computer skills. It shall also be the computer coordinator's responsibility to facilitate the use of computers in appropriate subject areas.

3. Superintendent's Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall be responsible, with the assistance of the computer coordinator, the District's purchasing agent, and such instructional planning committees as may be required, for the purchase and distribution of computer hardware and software throughout the District's schools. The Superintendent shall prepare and submit to the Board for its approval a comprehensive, multi-year technology plan for the District. The plan thereby adopted by the Board shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to reflect changing technology and needs by the District.

The Superintendent shall also develop rules and regulations governing the use and security of the District's computer network.

4. Consequences of Failure to Abide by Use Policies or Regulations

Failure by any employee of the District or any student to comply with District policy or regulations regarding the use of the computer network may result in disciplinary action. Such violation may also result in revocation of the person's computer access privileges.

5. Parental Notice

Effective September 1998, the District shall annually provide written notice to the parent or guardian of each child in the District of the Board's policy on, and the pertinent administrative regulations governing, the District's computer network. Specifically, parents shall be advised of:

- A. Expectations of appropriate online conduct by users;
- B. Reasonable steps taken by the District to ensure that students use the network only for purposes that are consistent with the curriculum;
- C. The District's inability to prevent absolutely students' access to objectionable or inappropriate material posted on connecting computers by others;
- D. The need for parental permission in order for any student to use the District's network; and
- E. The availability to any interested parent of a scheduled demonstration by District staff of the network and its educational capabilities.