

School Board Action Report

“Every student achieving, everyone accountable”



DATE: June 10, 2009
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STRATEGIC THEME/
FOCUS AREA: Building an Infrastructure that Works Well

TITLE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Revision to School Board Policy D 139.00 (Student Internet Access) to amend the network use agreement process to meet current practice. For Introduction: June 17, 2009
For Action: July 1, 2009

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

Upon approval information about this change will be communicated to schools. This will be in use beginning in Fall 2009

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the board amend School Board Policy D 139.00 as attached.

ISSUE

Currently students with individual network accounts are required to sign a paper network use agreement before they can have access to the network and by extension the Internet. Those agreements have to be collected and recorded at the school and then someone at the school has to turn on access to individual accounts based on the recorded agreements. This process is all done by hand and usually by a few people, the lead often taken by the librarian. This has two major consequences; often there is a delay in getting access for students to do schoolwork on the network as the process runs its course and this process takes a large amount of time for library staff, particularly at the beginning of the year.

Moving to an electronic process like the one used currently by staff allows students near immediate access if they accept the network agreement, makes sure that agreements are not lost (log files are kept on the who, when and where of accepted agreements) and reduces the management burden on staff significantly.

In order to move to an electronic process, Board policy would have to change. The first change brings policy in line with current practice and would only require students and not students and parents to sign the agreement. This has been what schools have been doing on paper for the last several years. The other change would explicitly allow an electronic approval process.

In addition to the Board Policy a Superintendent's Procedure has been developed. This procedure addresses the need to have an 'opt-out' process for families who do not wish to have their students have access to the Internet by outlining where opt-out forms can be found.

BEST PRACTICES

This brings the policy in line with current practice and allows timely access to network resources for incoming students.

RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES

N/A

POLICY IMPLICATION

Amendment to School Board Policy D 139.00

FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

None, but there will be a significant reduction on school resources especially librarian time in secondary schools. This will help librarians who have lost the help of librarian assistants in the current WSS.

Expenditure: **One-time** **Annual**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Librarians and DoTs staff have been extensively involved in the recommendation to change this process. They have also been involved in the rewording of the current use agreement to reflect current concerns about network use.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this policy be approved

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Revised School Board Policy D 139.00](#)
2. [Superintendent's Procedure](#) – included for information