

Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	<b>COMPUTER, NETWORK AND INTERNET USE</b>	<b>Policy # 6141C</b>
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I. Purpose

The Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD) recognizes that information technology (IT) is integral to learning and educating today’s children for success in the global community and fully supports the access of these electronic resources by students and staff. The purpose of this policy is to:

- A. Create an environment that fosters the use of information technology in a manner that supports and enriches the curriculum , provides opportunities for collaboration, and enhances staff professional development.
- B. Ensure the SVRTSD takes appropriate measures to maintain the safety of everyone that accesses the district’s information technology devices, network and web resources.
- C. Comply with the requirements of applicable federal and state laws that regulate the provision of access to the Internet and other electronic resources by school districts.

II. Policy

It is the policy of the SVRTSD to provide students and staff access to a multitude of Information Technology (IT) resources, including, but not limited to, email, computers, wireless access points and the Internet. IT resources provide opportunities to enhance learning and improve communication within our community and with the global community beyond.

- A. The use of SVRTSD’ s IT resources by students, staff or others is a privilege, not a right.
- B. With the privilege of access comes the responsibility of students, teachers, staff and the public to exercise responsible use of these resources.
- C. The same rules and expectations govern student use of IT resources as apply to other student conduct and communications, including but not limited to the SVRTSD’s harassment and bullying policies. [See Cross References below.]
- D. The SVRTSD’s computer and network resources are the property of the supervisory union. Users shall have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, receive or display on or over the Supervisory District’s computers or network resources, including personal files and email or other electronic communications.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) makes schools ineligible to receive funding for the purchase of computers used to access the internet , or to pay costs

42 associated with accessing the internet , through the technology grants program “ ... unless  
43 the school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility  
44 for administration of (the) school both... has in place a policy of Internet safety for minors  
45 that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any of its  
46 computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers to  
47 visual depictions that are obscene; child pornography; or harmful to minors ; and is  
48 enforcing the operation of such computers by minors; and has in place a policy of Internet  
49 safety that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any  
50 of its computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers  
51 to visual depictions that are... obscene or child pornography and is enforcing ... such  
52 measure during use of any such computers .. .” 20 U.S .C. § 6777; 47 U.S.C. §  
53 254(h)(5)(A) & (B). Prior to adoption, the school must “provide reasonable public notice  
54 and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposed Internet safety  
55 policy.” 47 U.S.C. § 254 (1)(1 )(8 ).

### 56 57 III. Administrative Regulations

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59 The Superintendent, or his/her designee, is responsible for establishing procedures  
60 governing use of IT resources consistent with the provisions of this policy. These  
61 procedures must include (Required by Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), 47  
62 U.S.C. § 254(1); 47 C.F.R. § 54.520(c)(ii)):

- 63 A. An annual process for educating all students, including transferring students,  
64 about responsible digital citizenship. As defined in this policy, a responsible  
65 digital citizen is one who:
- 66 a. Respects One’s Self: Users will maintain appropriate standards of  
67 language and behavior when sharing information and images on social  
68 networking websites and elsewhere online. Users refrain from distributing  
69 personally identifiable information 2 about themselves and others.
  - 70 b. Respects Others: Users refrain from using technologies to bully, tease or  
71 harass other people. Users will report incidents of cyber bullying and  
72 harassment in accordance with the SVRTSD’s policies on bullying and  
73 harassment. Users will also refrain from using another person’s system  
74 account or password or from presenting themselves as another person.
  - 75 c. Protects One’s Self and Others: Users protect themselves and others by  
76 reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials and  
77 communications. They are responsible at all times for the proper use of  
78 their account by not sharing their system account password.
  - 79 d. Respects Intellectual Property: Users suitably cite any and all use of  
80 websites, books, media, etc.
- 81 B. Protection of Intellectual Property: Users request to use the software and media  
82 others produce.
- 83 C. Provisions necessary to ensure internet service providers and other contractors  
84 comply with applicable restrictions on the collection and disclosure of student  
85 data and any other confidential information stored in district electronic resources.
- 86 D. Technology protection measures that provide for the monitoring and filtering of  
87 online activities by all users of SVRTSD’s IT, including measures that protect  
88 against access to content that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.

89 E. Methods to address the following:  
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91 a. Control of access by minors to sites on the Internet that include  
92 inappropriate content, such as content that is:

- 93 i. Lewd, vulgar, or profane
- 94 ii. Threatening
- 95 iii. Harassing or discriminatory
- 96 iv. Bullying
- 97 v. Terroristic
- 98 vi. Obscene or pornographic
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100 b. For the purposes of this policy, “personally identifiable information” shall  
101 not include any information listed as “directory information” in the school  
102 district’s annual FERPA notice.

103 F. The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, social media sites,  
104 and other forms of direct electronic communications.

105 G. Prevention of unauthorized online access by minors, including “hacking” and  
106 other unlawful activities.

107 H. Unauthorized disclosure, use, dissemination of personal information regarding  
108 minors.

109 I. Restriction of minors’ access to materials harmful to them.

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111 J. A process whereby authorized persons may temporarily disable or bypass the  
112 Supervisory District’s Internet filtering measures during use by an adult to enable  
113 access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

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115 IV. Application  
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117 This regulation applies to anyone who accesses the SVRTSD’s network, collaboration  
118 and communication tools, and/or student information systems, either on-site or via a  
119 remote location, including access using privately owned devices, and anyone who uses  
120 the SVRTSD’s IT devices or services either on or off-site.

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122 V. Limitation/Disclaimer of Liability  
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124 The SVRTSD is not liable for unacceptable use or violations of copyright restrictions or  
125 other laws, user mistakes or negligence, and costs incurred by users. The SVRTSD is not  
126 responsible for ensuring the accuracy, age appropriateness, or usability of any  
127 information found on its electronic resources network, including the Internet. The  
128 SVRTSD is not responsible for any damage experienced, including, but not limited to,  
129 loss of data or interruptions of service. The SVRTSD is not responsible for the accuracy  
130 or quality of information obtained through or stored on the electronic resources system,  
131 including the Internet, or for financial obligations arising through their unauthorized use.

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VI. Enforcement

The SVRTSD reserves the right to revoke access privileges and/or administer appropriate disciplinary action for misuse of its IT resources. In the event there is an allegation that a user has violated this policy, a student will be provided with notice and opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the student disciplinary policy. Allegations of staff member violations of this policy will be processed in accordance with contractual agreements and legal requirements.

VII. Legal References:

- 17 U.S.C. §§101-120 (Federal Copyright Act of 1976 as amended)
- 20 U.S.C . § 6777 et seq. (Enhancing Education Through Technology Act)
- 18 U.S.C. §2251 (Federal Child Pornography Law-Sexual Exploitation and Other Abuse of Children)
- 47 U.S.C. §254 (Children’s Internet Protection Act)
- 47 CFR §54.520 (CIPA Certifications)
- 13 V.S.A. §§2802 et seq. (Obscenity, minors)

Required by 20 U.S.C. § 6777(c)

Cross Reference SVRTSD Policies:

- #5002C-Student Harassment
- #5003C-Bullying Prevention
- #5050C-Discipline of Pupils Suspension and Expulsion of Students
- #61 30C-Copyright
- #6000C-Curriculum
- #5084C-Personal Use of Wireless Communications

	Date Drafted	Date Warned	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy	
Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District	9.19.19	10.7.19	11.4.19	6140C 6148C 6149C	

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