



Policy 2460 Safety and Acceptable Use of the Internet at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/p2460.html> includes regulations for the safety and use of the Internet. It addresses acceptable use, privileges, accountability and responsibility, web publishing, network etiquette, reliability, security, safety, and vandalism. Below are specific excerpts from the policy that may apply to this situation of abuse.

§126-41-3. Use.

3.1. Acceptable Use.

3.1.1 The purpose of the National Science Foundation Network (NSFNet), which was the original Internet backbone network, was to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. Access to the Internet for West Virginia schools is provided in the spirit of that original intent for academic achievement. The use of the Internet must be in support of education and consistent with the educational objectives of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE). Use of other networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Users must also be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing (WVNET) specifically the: "WVNET Security Policy and Procedure."

3.1.2. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state law or regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening, abusive, or obscene material, or material protected by trade secrets. Use for commercial activities by for-profit institutions is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited. Illegal activities and privacy and safety violations of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) are strictly prohibited.

3.6. Network Etiquette.

3.6.1. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages to others.
- b) Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- c) Do not reveal the personal home address or phone number of students or colleagues. -- Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. Messages related to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- d) Do not use the Internet in a way that would disrupt the use of the Internet by others (e.g., downloading huge files during prime time; sending mass e-mail messages; annoying other users).
- e) Keep files (old e-mail messages) stored on the server to a minimum.
- f) If account is to be unused for an extended period of time, be sure to unsubscribe to listservs.