

**Ossining Union Free School District****COMPUTER NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS****O.W.L.Net (Ossining Wired for Learning Network)**

The Ossining Union Free School District Board of Education is committed to optimizing student learning and teaching. The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The Board considers student access to a computer network, including the Internet, to be a powerful and valuable educational and research tool, and encourages the use of computers and computer-related technology in district computer labs and classrooms solely for the purpose of advancing and promoting learning and teaching. The Board expects that all staff and students will learn to use electronic mail and telecommunications tools and apply them daily in appropriate ways to the performance of tasks associated with their positions and assignments. Toward that end, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide staff and students with training in the proper and effective use of telecommunications and electronic mail. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to the preparation of citizens and future employees during an Age of Information. The Board expects that staff will blend thoughtful use of such information throughout the curriculum and that the staff will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources. Staff will consult guidelines for instructional materials and will honor the goals for selection of instructional materials contained therein.

The Ossining Union Free School District will provide its staff and students with access to the District's electronic communication system, which includes Internet access. O.W.L.Net will be used for educational purposes to assist in preparing students for success in life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by providing them with electronic access to a wide range of information and the ability to communicate with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefit to students from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed the potential disadvantages. The computer network will provide a forum for learning various software applications and electronic mail, and will significantly enhance educational experiences and provide statewide, national and global communication opportunities for staff and students. Additionally, O.W.L.Net will assist the District in sharing information with the local community, including parents, social service agencies, and businesses.

All users of O.W.L.Net and the Internet must understand that use is a privilege, not a right, and that use entails responsibility.

Communication over networks should not be considered private. Network supervision and maintenance may require review and inspection of directories or messages. Messages may sometimes be diverted accidentally to a destination other than the one intended. Privacy in these communications is not guaranteed. The District reserves the right to access stored records where there is reasonable cause to expect misuse of the system. Courts have ruled that old messages may be subpoenaed, and network supervisors may examine communications in order to ascertain compliance with network guidelines for acceptable use.

The Superintendent of Schools shall establish regulations governing the use and security of O.W.L.Net. All users of O.W.L. Net shall comply with this policy and those regulations. Failure to comply may result in suspension and/or revocation of computer access privileges, and possibly disciplinary action.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for designating an administrator to oversee the use of O.W.L.Net for instructional purposes. Such administrator will coordinate and prepare in-service programs for the training and development of District staff in computer skills, and for the incorporation of computer use in appropriate subject areas.

Adopted: November 18, 1998