

Board of Education Policy 3.6140/3.6142/4.2050/7.1310  
Administrative Procedure

Network Usage

The Catawba County School System is committed to providing reliable high-speed access to all members of its community. The use of staff and students of peer-to-peer file-sharing software programs (i.e., Napster and Napster-like services) is depriving users of this access by consuming large portions of our network capacity.

Effective immediately, use of the Internet for Napster or other peer-based file-sharing distributed Internet programs, instant messaging services used for non-educational purposes, or non-educational games is prohibited by all users.

This action is being taken for the following reasons:

1. Napster-like services have seriously disrupted the use of the network for important academic and administrative use.
2. It is a violation of Acceptable Use Policy to use the system network for illegal purposes and to interfere with or disrupt network users.
3. Catawba County is concerned about the potential for legal exposure for students and staff who use such programs. It is illegal under federal law to freely distribute copyrighted music in any form, and the system may be at risk by providing the capability to access Napster-like services which allow such distribution.
4. Catawba County Schools does not promote or permit the storage of and distribution of illegally acquired copyrighted materials.

The immediate impact of this decision will be improved network performance for all students, faculty and staff of Catawba County Schools. Those using resources such as email, NC Wise, NC WiseOwl and academic-related web sites will benefit from this decision.

Willful violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action in accordance with Board of Education Policy.

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Superintendent

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Date