

## Information Technologies as Teaching and Learning Tools

### I. A RATIONALE

The Wallingford Public Schools are committed to providing a technology-rich learning environment, not only because our students will need to be comfortable living and working in a technology-rich future, but also because research has clearly established the benefits of the use of educational technology on student achievement, self-concept, and the quality of interactions between teachers and students in the learning environment.

The world's knowledge base is increasing exponentially, and it has readily become apparent that citizens of the twenty-first century will need to be able to locate information both in print form and electronic form and to use information meaningfully. Global communication networks have facilitated immediate access to information from sources around the world, and tomorrow's citizens will need to be able to solve problems and make decisions based upon that information. In addition, they will need to be able to construct, manage, and communicate new knowledge.

Curriculum and technology must be integrated so that students and teachers learn about technology by teaching and learning with technology. The introduction of technology tools into daily learning environments allows teachers and students to simultaneously focus on process skills, content, and technology. The more students and teachers learn about the potential of specific technological resources and applications, the more they will be able to teach and learn with these powerful tools.

### II. FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Technology Plan:** The superintendent will maintain a comprehensive long-range educational technology plan to ensure that all schools have adequate and appropriate hardware, software, multimedia materials, and communications capabilities as rapidly as available resources permit and to guide and assess the effective implementation of all aspects of this policy.
- B. District Purchasing Standards:** The superintendent will maintain district wide standards for hardware and software purchases.
- C. Staff Support:** The district shall provide ongoing professional development opportunities for staff in the effective use of information technologies as teaching and learning tools.
- D. Student Competencies:** The district will identify the competencies that all students will need to be able to use technology to access, analyze, apply, and communicate information and assure that all students have the opportunity to master those competencies.

INSTRUCTION

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**II. FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION** (continued)

- E. Guidelines for Appropriate Use:** The district will maintain written guidelines for the appropriate use of information technologies and of Internet access for students and staff. These guidelines shall include the possible consequences of inappropriate use.

**Legal References:** Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221. Board of education to prescribe rules

**Policy Approved: 5/19/97**