

# Bangor Public Library

## PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS ACCEPTABLE USE AND POLICY GUIDELINES

Bangor Public Library provides computer access to all residents of the Slate Belt area. Access to the Library computers and the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.

Please read the following rules and guidelines before signing up to use a Library computer.

1. Bangor Public Library provides computer access to all residents of the Slate Belt area. Patrons of the library must have no overdue Library materials or outstanding fines over \$10.00 to use a Library computer.
2. Library computers use filters for Internet sites. If you experience a problem accessing a site, please notify a staff member.
3. Patrons accessing websites depicting or discussing information that by Pennsylvania State Law is considered “harmful to minors” will be asked to close them down. Pennsylvania Obscenity Statute – 18 Pa. C.S. 5903 reads:  
“Harmful to minors” involves materials or performances that involve explicit sexual materials that depict nudity, sexual conduct or sadomasochistic abuse and appeal predominately to prurient, shameful or morbid interest of minors, is offensive to the prevailing standards in the adult community and taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors
4. In addition to web browsers, MS Office applications are available on library computers. Users may not alter files or download/install ANY software or programs.
5. You may use your own flash drive to save your documents. If you do not have a flash drive, you may purchase one from the Library for \$8.00. The Library does not assume responsibility for any damage to a patron’s flash drive or computer, or for any loss of data.
6. The information you find on the Internet may not be accurate or reliable, depending on the site. The Bangor Public Library accepts no responsibility for any damages resulting from use of this service. The Library advises every user to use critical judgment and expert verification when using Internet information to make important decisions.
7. The Library may monitor usage and reserves the right to terminate a session if, in the library’s sole judgment, the session is creating a disturbance.
8. While every attempt is made to keep all information passing to and from our systems private, you must assume that any information that you transmit or receive may not be private. The Library does not monitor normal usage of the system. However, the Library will fully cooperate with any authority in investigation of illegal activity and may turn over logs and

records upon receipt of proper orders or subpoenas. The Electronic Communications Act of 1986, the Telecommunications Act of 1998 and the USA Patriot Act contain important privacy and confidentially information.

9. One hour registration is permitted. Registration time will be on the half hour. A computer may also be reserved by calling in advance and scheduling a time. If you do not arrive within ten (10) minutes of your reserved time, your time will be forfeited. Due to the limited number of computers available, patrons may only sign up for two hours per day, assuming there is availability. The exception is for proctored exams scheduled in advance.
10. Bangor Public Library personnel have the right to limit the number of users at any computer and to request that the users work quietly.
11. Food and drink are not allowed in the computer areas.
12. Bangor Public Library will charge \$.25 per page for black and white and \$.40 per page for colored copies printed from a computer.
13. In the event that you experience difficulty in using the computer, IMMEDIATELY notify the Library staff.
14. Bangor Public Library staff will provide *limited* computer assistance. Additional online reference materials are available to provide assistance to the user.
15. At the first offense of this policy a patron will be denied computer use for two weeks. If the patron has a second offense, computer privileges will be removed for two months. After the third offense, computer privileges will be terminated permanently.
16. Rules and procedures for computer and internet access may be formulated or revised at any time. Changes will be posted near the Internet computer.
17. All of the above rules and procedures also apply to use of the Library's public wireless access.

## **CHILDREN'S COMPUTER & INTERNET ACCESS**

1. All of the regular rules also apply to children's access to the Internet.
2. In addition to web browsers, MS Office applications are available on library computers. Junior patrons may use MS Office applications without having written parental permission form on file.
3. Patrons accessing websites depicting or discussing information that by Pennsylvania State Law is considered "harmful to minors" will be asked to close them down.

Pennsylvania Obscenity Statute – 18 Pa. C.S. 5903 reads:

"Harmful to minors" involves materials or performances that involve explicit sexual materials that depict nudity, sexual conduct or sadomasochistic abuse and appeal

predominately to prurient, shameful or morbid interest of minors, is offensive to the prevailing standards in the adult community and taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors.

4. Children under the age of 17 must have written parental permission to use the Library's computers. The parent or guardian must be present at the library to review the rules and sign the consent form or download form/sign and return to library. A new form is required annually.
5. It is the responsibility of the parent, and not the Library, to monitor the use of the Internet by their child.

The intent of the Internet Policy is to protect both the freedom and rights of the individual (adult and child) in his or her pursuit of education and information. The Library recognizes that these policies do not solve or end the issue of inappropriate Internet use. They do serve as guidelines for users and staff. These policies do not supersede or eliminate the parental responsibility with regard to monitoring children's Internet use.

**Rev. 9/22/18- Updated- 5/20/2021**