The East Providence Public Library ("the Library") offers free access to computer terminals and the Internet. By using a public computer at the Library, the patron agrees to abide by the following policies and terms as well as the Library's Patron Conduct Policy. Violation of these rules may result in the loss of computer access and library privileges or expulsion from the library. Library staff has full authority to enforce these policies and procedures as well as any policies related to general behavior in the library as covered in the Patron Conduct Policy.

**Rules governing computer, Internet, and wireless access and use**

An Ocean State Libraries card or a guest pass is required for library computer usage at Weaver and Riverside. Guest passes are found at the welcome (front) and question (reference) desks at both Weaver and Riverside.

Violations of any local, state or federal statutes are prohibited.

Users are responsible for compliance with all copyright notices and restrictions attached to web content as well as applicable state and federal laws.

Library users may bring their own headphones or purchase ear buds at the question desk to plug into library computers. Otherwise, the sound on the computers must be turned off.

Files can be temporarily saved to public computers but will be deleted upon reboot. Flash drives for data storage are available for purchase at all locations.

Library users who bring their own devices may connect to the wireless network and plug in their devices to designated outlets.  However, they may not use outlets designated for library equipment or in staff-only areas, and they must make sure cords and other peripherals are not in walkways. Personal electronic equipment should be silenced unless headphones are attached.

Computer users should not speak into their cellphones in any area of the library other than the hallway near the bathrooms.

Computer users agree to take proper care of all equipment that is the property of the library. Users and/or their parent or legal guardian agree to pay replacement cost of any equipment or materials lost or damaged by the user.

Computer users may not make any attempt to bypass software on Public Access Catalog computers to gain full computer access or attempt to bypass the time management software on library computers to gain additional time and access on library computers. Users may request additional time at the welcome or question desk.

Computer users may not invade the privacy of others or engage in any activity that is harassing, bullying, defamatory, or threatening. These behaviors are a violation of RI state law §11-52-4.2 (Cyberstalking and Cyberharassing).

**Disclaimers**

Patrons use library computers at their own risk.

The library makes no guarantees, either expressed or implied, with respect to any technology, equipment, software or other library materials.

Library staff does not monitor Internet use and cannot be held responsible for its content.

Monitoring a child's use and access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

Patrons should not have an expectation of privacy, as all public computers are in view of other patrons and library staff. While every effort will be made to maintain a secure environment on library networks, Internet transactions, communications and activities are potentially vulnerable to unauthorized access.

**Children's Computers**

Computers in children's areas of the library are for children's use only. No adults may use these computers for any purpose unless they are a parent/legal guardian/caregiver accompanying a child. The library does allow parents of young children to use computers when the computers are not all taken by children.

**Computer Use Information**

Patrons may reserve time on a computer in allotments of three hours and may extend so long as no other patron is waiting to use a computer.  Time limits are subject to change and may be altered at the discretion of library staff.

Public computers automatically shut down 15 minutes before closing. Patrons are encouraged to save their work on external media and to complete all of their printing needs, and the library is not responsible for loss of data in the case of a computer shutdown.

Because library computers are a shared resource available to the public, patrons should log out of all personal accounts before ending their computer sessions. The library is not responsible for issues that may result from patrons not logging out of their sessions.

**Assistance**

Library staff have limited availability to assist users who do not have basic computer skills. The library offers a variety of computer instruction courses and one-on-one training sessions and we encourage library users who wish to improve their computer skills to take advantage of these sessions.

Library staff are unable to process financial and personal transactions on behalf of library patrons. Printed or online health and legal information recommended by library staff is for educational purposes only and is not to replace the advice of a medical or legal professional.

**Printing**

Printing is available from all public computers for a fee. Black & white printing costs 15 cents a page and color printing costs one dollar ($1) a page. The Library will only issue refunds for printing if the machine produced a blurred, black or otherwise unreadable copy or if the paper leaves the machine torn or wrinkled. Users should always use the Print Preview function before sending a print job to make sure the number of pages is correct, that no blank pages are included, and that the text on the page is complete.

**Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**

The Library complies with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which requires the use of filtering software on public computers to limit children's access to material that is (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors.

Filtering software may not block all material users might find offensive.

Adults, defined by the law as over 17, may choose to use unfiltered computers for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. An authorized library staff member may disable the filtering software if the above criteria are met.