

## **ENERGY STAR**

### **PURPOSE:**

Energy efficiency is vital to schools in the United States. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 encourages the use of alternative fuels through both regulatory and voluntary activities. Energy costs become more of a strain on school budgets every year. In addition to helping school districts save on energy bills each year, energy efficiency prevents greenhouse gas emissions and improves the students' learning environment. Therefore, it is important that only energy-efficient equipment and appliances are purchased.

### **ENERGY STAR:**

The Energy Star program was established by the Environmental Protection Agency to provide accuracy and consistency in energy usage ratings and encourage purchasing efficient equipment. Energy Star partnerships represent a commitment of school officials to improve the energy efficiency of their districts and to educate students, teachers, and the community about the resulting environmental and financial benefits.

The program maintains a database of compliant manufacturers and products including, but not limited to, computer equipment, copy machines, HVAC equipment, household appliances and more.

### **GUIDELINES:**

It is the responsibility of the district administrators to implement, direct, monitor, evaluate, and report district energy conservation efforts.

The Chariho School Committee directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop and implement both immediate and long-range plans to conserve energy resources by the Regional School District. Such development shall consider the following:

- \*Only equipment and appliances with an Energy Star rating should be purchased. Equipment or appliances that exceed Energy Star efficiency requirements should be considered if available.
- \*Low-efficiency products, including incandescent lights, halogen torchieres, and portable electrical resistance heaters, are prohibited from being purchased.
- \*School staff are not permitted to bring any item that does not meet these requirements into their workspace.

REFERENCES: Rhode Island Department of Education School Construction Regulations 200-RICR-20-05-4

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