

STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY

Advances in telecommunications and other related technologies have fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. Such changes are driving the need for educators to adapt their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to harness and utilize the vast, diverse, and unique resources available on the Internet. The Board of Education is pleased to provide Internet services to its students. The ESC's Internet system has a limited educational purpose. The ESC's Internet system has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The Board has the right to place restrictions on its use to assure that use of the ESC's Internet system is in accord with its limited educational purpose. Student use of the ESC's computers, network and Internet services ("Network") will be governed by this policy and the related administrative guidelines, and the Student Code of Conduct. The due process rights of all users will be respected in the event there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of the Network. Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using the Network (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, emails, and records of their online activity while on the Network)

The Board encourages students to utilize the Internet in order to promote educational excellence in our schools by providing them with the opportunity to develop the resource sharing, innovation, and communication skills and tools that are essential to both life and work. The instructional use of the Internet will be guided by the Board's policy on instructional materials.

The Internet is a global information and communication network that provides students and staff with access to up-to-date, highly relevant information that will enhance their learning and the education process. Further, the Internet provides students and staff with the opportunity to communicate with other people from throughout the world. Access to such an incredible quantity of information and resources brings with it; however, certain unique challenges and responsibilities.

First, and foremost, the Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through the Board's Internet connection, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, will open classrooms and students to electronic information resources that have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures, which protect against (e.g. filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using the Network, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent or his/her designee may temporarily or permanently unblock access to sites containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

Parents are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services and/or resources on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents assume risks by consenting to allow their child to participate in the use of the Internet. Parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet. The Board supports and respects each family's right to decide whether to apply for independent student access to the Internet.

Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using email, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking"), cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online, and
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors

Staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above. Furthermore, staff members will monitor the online activities of students while at school.

The principal is responsible for providing training so that Internet users under his/her supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of the Internet. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response. All Internet users (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students and staff members are responsible for good behavior on the Board's computers/ network and the Internet just as they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not sanction any use of the Internet that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users granted access to the Internet through the Board's computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for uses of the Internet not authorized by this Board policy and its accompanying guidelines.

The Board designates the Superintendent and his/her designee as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying guidelines as they apply to students' use of the Network.

THE FOLLOWING USES OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED:

1. Violating the conditions of State and Federal law dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information;
2. Providing a network account and/or password to others;
3. Providing online your address, phone number, or photograph, or anyone else's;
4. Using the account of another user with or without permission;
5. Revealing private information about a user to others. Private information includes, but is not limited to, a person's password, social security number, credit card number or other confidential information that has the potential to harm yourself or others or to violate the law if shared;
6. Posting personal communication without the author's consent;
7. Accessing personal social networking websites for non-educational purposes;
8. Substituting someone else's name on any electronic communication;
9. Students using the network without staff monitoring or supervision;

10. Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or entities (commonly referred to as “hacking”);
11. Invading the privacy of others by accessing and/or vandalizing their computerized data and/or equipment
12. Introducing a computer virus onto the network or any ESC computer;
13. Installing or copying of any software and/or other material on the hard drive of the system without the permission of the Technology Coordinator;
14. Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
15. Wasting technology resources, including bandwidth, file space, and printers;
16. Using the system to access, distribute and/or view inappropriate material or advising others how to access inappropriate material;
17. Using any form of obscene, harassing, threatening, defamatory or abusive language, picture, or video on any device;
18. Viewing, downloading, or sending any material that is threatening, pornographic, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement to others based on their race, national origin, citizenship status, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs, or anything inconsistent with the applicable policies and regulations of the Board of Education;
19. Violation of trademark/copyright laws, license agreements, or other contracts;
20. Possessing any data in paper, magnetic disk, or other form which violates the terms and conditions of this Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety or current copyright law restrictions;
21. Using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
22. Using the Internet without having signed the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety consent and waiver;
23. Any action by a user, which is determined by the classroom teacher or the ESC administration which constitutes an inappropriate use of the Internet and/or technology equipment. Inappropriate use is defined as any violation of this Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety or any use that is inconsistent with the goals of the ESC.

STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY AGREEMENT

To access email and/or the Internet at school, students under the age of eighteen (18) must obtain parent permission and must sign and return this form. Students eighteen (18) and over may sign their own forms.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The Governing Board's Internet connection is provided for educational purposes only. Unauthorized and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.

The Board has implemented technology protection measures, which protect against (e.g. block/filter). Internet access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute

child pornography, or are harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of students in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication, and/or services on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes and/or that they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet. Students accessing the Internet through the school's computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.

The Board has the right, at any time, to access, monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board's computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Please complete the following information:

Parent/Guardian

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines, and have discussed them with my child. I understand that student access to the Internet is designed for educational purposes and that the Board has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Board to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that may be found on the Internet. I will not hold the Board (or any of its employees, administrators or officers) responsible for materials my child may acquire or come in contact with while on the Internet. Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating to my child guidance concerning his/her acceptable use of the Internet - i.e., setting and conveying standards for my daughter/son to follow when selecting, sharing and exploring information and resources on the Internet. I further understand that individuals and families may be liable for violations. To the extent that proprietary rights in the design of a website hosted on the Board's servers would vest in my child upon creation, I agree to assign those rights to the Board.

Please check each that applies:

- ☐ I give permission for my child to use and access the Internet at school and for the Board to issue an Internet/email account to my child.
- ☐ I give permission for my child's image (photograph) to be published online, provided only his/her first name is used.
- ☐ I give permission for the Board to transmit "live" images of my child (as part of a group) over the Internet via a webcam.

- ☐ I authorize and license the Board to post my child's class work on the Internet without infringing upon any copyright my child may own with respect to such class work. I understand only my child's first name will accompany such class work.

Parent/Guardian's Name (please print):

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student

I have read and agree to abide by the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines. I understand that any violation of the terms and conditions set forth in the Policy and Guidelines is inappropriate and may constitute a criminal offense. As a user of the Board's computers/network and the Internet, I agree to communicate over the Internet and the Network in an appropriate manner, honoring all relevant laws, restrictions and guidelines.

Student User's Full Name (please print):

Grade: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teachers and building principals are responsible for determining what is unauthorized or inappropriate use. The principal may deny, revoke or suspend access to the Network/Internet to individuals who violate the Board's Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and related Guidelines, and take such other disciplinary action as is appropriate pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.