

STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY
Cullman County Commission on Education
D.004.5

The Cullman County Commission on Education strives to provide an educational environment rich in resources that will enable all students to reach his/her full potential. The Commission is offering to those students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner, monitored Internet services. You should understand that even the very best Internet filtering software might not block all unacceptable sites, but most educators believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet far exceed the disadvantages. Access is a privilege, not a right, and requires parental permission.

Misuse and vandalism of equipment, use of programs, and services will result in restricted or prohibited Internet use and will be punished as defined in the school conduct policies. Further, the system may not be used for commercial purposes to offer, provide, or purchase products or services through the system or use the system for political lobbying or any type of personal financial gain.

The Cullman County Commission on Education endorses the following student Internet guidelines:

1. PERSONAL SAFETY

- a. You will not post contact information or credit information (e.g., address, social security number, driver's license number, date of birth), or any other pertinent personal information.
- b. Use of personal e-mail accounts, social networking sites, wiki's, blogs and chat rooms is not permitted with the exception of teacher supervised uses that are required as part of the curriculum
- c. Use of instant messaging services such as Yahoo Pager or MSN messenger is not permitted with the exception of teacher supervised uses that are required as part of the curriculum.

2. AWARENESS AND RESPONSE

- a. You will be made aware of appropriate online behavior including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms through implementation of the Alabama Technology Education Course of Study and community outreach.
- b. You will be made aware of the dangers and effects of cyber bullying and cyber harassment through implementation of the Alabama Technology Education Course of Study and community outreach.
- c. Any contact or receipt of any message you feel is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable should be reported to the network administrator or the sponsoring teacher.
- d. Any contact or receipt of any message you feel rises to the level of cyber bullying or cyber harassment should be reported to the network administrator or the sponsoring teacher.

3. ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

- a. You will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to any computer system or go beyond your authorized access by entering another person's ID and password for accession of data files or network resources.
- b. You will not deliberately attempt to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means.
- c. You will not post contact information (e.g., address, social security number, driver's license number, date of birth), or any other pertinent personal information that violates the privacy of an individual.
- d. You will not attempt to access, modify or delete any data files, folders or system configurations beyond your authorized access.

- e. You will not participate in any form of “cyber harassment” or “cyber bullying”, this includes online threats and insults intended to embarrass, harass, or terrify others.
- f. You will not use any network, server or password monitoring equipment or software.
- g. You will not install or use any means to circumvent or by-pass network firewalls, security devices or content filtering software and appliances.

4. TECHNOLOGY SECURITY

- a. You are responsible for the security of your password, and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your password. *Under no circumstances* should you give your password to another person.
- b. You will immediately notify a teacher or the system administrator if you have identified a possible security problem. Do not look for security problems; this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
- c. You will avoid the inadvertent spread of computer viruses and spyware caused by downloading files.
- d. Personal software may not be installed or used at the school site
- e. Personal computers may only be used with the approval of the school administrator. Personal computers may be searched at anytime while on school property
- f. Personal computers may not be connected to school networks
- g. Personal digital media storage devices may only be used for educational purposes as assigned by your teacher

5. INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

- a. On any and all uses of the Internet, whether in application to public or private messages, or material posted on the Web pages, you will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language. You will not post information that could cause danger or disruption or engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks. You will not harass another person by a persistent action that distresses or annoys another person and you must stop if asked to do so.

6. RESPECTING RESOURCE LIMITS

- a. You will use the system only for educational activities.
- b. You will not download, save or print files without permission from a sponsoring teacher.

7. PLAGIARISM AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

- a. You will not plagiarize words that you find on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours.
- b. You will not download copy or install unlicensed software.

8. INAPPROPRIATE ACCESS TO MATERIAL

- a. You will not use the Internet to access material that is profane or obscene (pornography) or that advocates illegal acts or violence or discrimination toward other people (hate literature). A special exception may be made for hate literature if the purpose of the access is to conduct research with both teacher and parental approval.
- b. If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you should immediately tell your teacher or other adult who is designated by the school. This will protect you against a claim of intentional violation of this policy.

- c. Your parents should instruct you if there is additional material they think would be inappropriate for you to access. The school system fully expects that you will follow your parents' instruction in this matter.

9. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- a. **Free Speech.** FYI, free speech as set forth in the school disciplinary code, applies also to your communication on the Internet. The Internet is considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper, and therefore the school will restrict your right to free speech for valid educational reasons.
- b. **Search and Seizure.** You should expect no privacy of the contents of your personal files on the Cullman County School's system, or the local school network or PCs. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the system can lead to discovery that you have violated this policy, the school code, or the law.
- c. **Due Process.** This school system will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the Cullman County Schools system. In the event of a claim that you have violated this policy, the school disciplinary code, or the law in your use of the Internet, you will be given written notice of suspected violations and an opportunity to present an explanation according to school code and/or state and federal law. Additional restrictions may be placed on your use of the Internet.

The school system makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the school system will be error-free or without defect. The school system will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer including, but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The school system is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information attained through or stored on the system. The school system will not be responsible for financial obligations arising from unauthorized use of the system.

When you are using the school network or Internet, it may feel like you can more easily break a rule and not get caught. This is not true. Electronic footprints are imprinted on the system whenever an action is performed. Therefore, you are likely to be caught if you break the rules.

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