

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR USE OF NETWORKED INFORMATION RESOURCES AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Chambers County School System will, when possible, offer students access to networked information resources, the Internet, and electronic mail (email). The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access to the Internet via School System computers is a privilege, not a right, and entails responsibility. To gain access, each student must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the Internet Acceptable Use Policy Permission Form.

The internet is a global network made up of many smaller contributing networks connecting thousands of computers throughout the world and millions of individual subscribers. Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. While there is an abundance of valuable information, with this access comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting.

Through the Internet, students can explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other resources. They can exchange personal communication with other users around the world. While the use of the Internet is primarily instructional in nature, some students may find ways to access other materials. Unfortunately, some of these resources contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Most educators believe the benefits to students from access to the Internet exceed the disadvantages. Parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards their children should follow when using these resources. To that end, the School System supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

The Internet should be used for research and education through the provision of unique resources and opportunities for collaboration among students, teachers, and administrators. Use of the Internet must be in support of this and consistent with the educational objectives of the school system.

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior while using the Internet. Additionally, students are responsible for their actions while using the equipment and the resources. Use is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. Vandalism of equipment or programs will result in punishment as defined in the school system's Code of Conduct.

All users have certain privileges and rights. Infringement of or disrespect to the rights of others may result in the loss of Internet privileges. These rights include:

- **Privacy**--Users should not expect that files stored on local servers will always be private. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. If a user is believed to be in violation of the guidelines, a system administrator may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the network responsibly.
- **Safety**-- Any user who receives threatening or unwelcome communications should bring them to the attention of a system administrator or teacher.
- **Intellectual Freedom**-- Any statement of personal belief is implicitly understood to be representative of the author's individual point of view and not that of the school or school system.
- **Inappropriate materials or language**-- No profane, abusive, or impolite language should be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior.

- **Equal Access--** All users will be granted free and equal access to the Internet. Exploration of the Internet is encouraged relative to the purposes of research and education. No single user should monopolize the workstations connected to the Internet.

GUIDELINES

1. Be prepared to be held accountable for your actions. Exemplary behavior is expected from all users at all times.
2. Do not notify an adult immediately if you encounter materials that violate the school code of conduct.
3. Do not use a computer of the Internet to hurt, harass, attack or harm other people or their work.
4. Do not damage the computer or network in any way.
5. Do not degrade the performance of the network through the posting of electronic chain letters or other useless information which wastes the system's limited resources.
6. Do not use the Internet for illegal activities, i.e. threats, instructions on how to perform an illegal act, child pornography, drug dealing, purchase of alcohol, gang activities, etc.
7. Do not install software or download unauthorized files, games, graphics, programs, or other electronic media.
8. Do not violate copyright laws.
9. Do not view, send, or display obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language, messages or pictures.
10. Do not share your password with another person.
11. Do not reveal the personal address or phone number of you or anyone else.
12. Do not access other student's work, folders, or files.
13. Do not re-post non-academic personal communications with the original author's prior consent.
14. Do not employ the network for commercial purposes.

Violations of these guidelines may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

Cross-reference: Chambers County Policy Manual File IFBGC

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY PERMISSION FORM

Date: _____

Dear Parents and Students:

The Chambers County School System's Internet Acceptable Use Policy is designed to provide guidelines for using the Internet in the classrooms, school media center, and computer labs in our schools this year. Please take the time to read this policy. If you have any questions about it, please be sure to contact your student's school principal or the Chambers County Board of Education's Director of Technology, Paul Howard, at 334-864-9343 or 334-642-1122.

This policy must be read and signed both by the student and a parent/guardian, and then returned to your child's homeroom teacher. Please return the signed form as soon as possible, since you will not be given access to the Internet until you have agreed to this policy.

Please note that if you violate the terms of this policy, you may lose privileges or receive punishment as defined in the Student Code of Conduct. It is your responsibility to read and ask questions about this policy.

Thank you,

STUDENT AGREEMENT AND PARENT PERMISSION FORM FOR INTERNET ACCESS

As a user of a computer network and networked information resources such as electronic mail and the Internet in the Chambers County School System, I hereby agree to comply with the System's guidelines for communicating over the network in a reliable fashion while honoring all relevant laws and restrictions.

Student's Name (Printed)_____
Student's Signature

As a parent/legal guardian of the minor student signing above, I grant permission for my son/daughter to access networked computer services such as electronic mail and the Internet. I understand that individuals and families may be held liable for violations. I understand that some materials on the Internet may be objectionable, but I accept responsibility for guidance of network use, setting and conveying standards for my son or daughter to follow when selecting, sharing or exploring information and media. I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outline in the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

My child may use email and the Internet while at school according to the rules outlined.

I would prefer that my child not use email and the Internet while at school.

Parent/Guardian's Name (printed)_____
Parent/Guardian's Signature_____
Today's Date

Please return this form to your teacher as soon as possible.