

Pike County Use Agreement for Internet and Other Electronic Resources

The Pike County School District recognizes the value of computer and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of its schools. To this end, the Pike County Board of Education encourages the responsible use of computers; computer networks, including the Internet; and other electronic resources in support of the mission and goals of the Pike County School District and its schools.

Because the Internet is an unregulated, worldwide vehicle for communication, information available to staff and students is impossible to control. Therefore, the Pike County Board of Education adopts this policy governing the voluntary use of electronic resources and the Internet in order to provide guidance to individuals and groups obtaining access to these resources on Pike County School District-owned equipment or through Pike County School District-affiliated organizations.

Pike County School District Rights and Responsibilities

It is the policy of the Pike County School District to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all online network activities by staff and students. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee, student, or other individual to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies of the network. Within this general policy, the Pike County School District recognizes its legal and ethical obligation to protect the well-being of students in its charge. To this end, the Pike County School District retains the following rights and recognizes the following obligations:

1. To log network use and to monitor fileserver space utilization by users, and assume no responsibility or liability for files deleted due to violation of fileserver space allotments.
2. To remove a user account on the network.
3. To monitor the use of online activities. This may include real-time monitoring of network activity and/or maintaining a log of Internet activity for later review.
4. To provide internal and external controls as appropriate and feasible. Such controls shall include the right to determine who will have access to Pike County School District-owned equipment and, specifically, to exclude those who do not abide by the Pike County School District's acceptable use policy or other policies governing the use of school facilities, equipment, and materials. Pike County School District reserves the right to restrict online destinations through software or other means.
5. To provide guidelines and make reasonable efforts to train staff and students in acceptable use and policies governing online communications.
6. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet (or other forms of electronic communications) access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) any material deemed harmful to minors.
7. Provide for the education of students regarding appropriate online behavior including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and regarding cyberbullying awareness and response.

Staff Responsibilities

1. Staff members who supervise students, control electronic equipment, or otherwise have occasion to observe student use of said equipment online shall make reasonable efforts to monitor the use of this equipment to assure that it conforms to the mission and goals of the Pike County School District.
2. Staff should make reasonable efforts to become familiar with the Internet and its use so that effective monitoring, instruction, and assistance may be achieved.
3. Staff members will provide for the education of students regarding online behavior including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and regarding cyberbullying awareness and response.

User Responsibilities

Use of the electronic media provided by the Pike County School District is a privilege that offers a wealth of information and resources for research. Where it is available, this resource is offered to staff, students, and other patrons at no cost. In order to maintain the privilege, users agree to learn and comply with all of the provisions of this policy.

Acceptable Use

1. All use of the Internet must be in support of educational and research objectives consistent with the mission and objectives of the Pike County School District.
2. Proper codes of conduct in electronic communication must be used. In news groups, giving out personal information is inappropriate. When using any electronic communication extreme caution must always be taken in revealing any information of a personal nature.
3. Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose.
4. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
5. Faculty and student email will be monitored and maintained, and files will be deleted from the personal mail directories to avoid excessive use of fileserver hard-disk space.
6. Exhibit exemplary behavior on the network as a representative of your school and community. Be polite!
7. From time to time, the Pike County School District will make determinations on whether specific uses of the network are consistent with the acceptable use practice.

Unacceptable Use

1. Giving out personal information about another person, including home address and phone number, is strictly prohibited.
2. Any use of the network for commercial or for-profit purposes is prohibited.
3. Excessive use of the network for personal business shall be cause for disciplinary action.
4. Any use of the network for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
5. Users shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the network.
6. No use of the network shall serve to disrupt the use of the network by others. Hardware and/or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
7. Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited.
8. Hate mail, chain letters, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited on the network.
9. The unauthorized installation of any software, including shareware and freeware, for use on Pike County School District computers is prohibited.
10. Use of the network to access or process pornographic material, inappropriate text files or files dangerous to the integrity of the local area network is prohibited.
11. Participating in "hacking" activities or any form of unauthorized access to other computers, networks, or information systems.
12. The Pike County School District network may not be used for downloading entertainment software or other files not related to the mission and objectives of the Pike County School District for transfer to a user's home computer, personal computer, or other media. This prohibition pertains to freeware, shareware, copyrighted commercial and non-commercial software, and all other forms of software and files not directly related to the instructional and administrative purposes of the Pike County School District.
13. Downloading, copying, otherwise duplicating, and/or distributing copyrighted materials without the specific written permission of the copyright owner is prohibited, except that duplication and/or distribution of materials for educational purposes is permitted when such duplication and/or distribution would fall within the Fair Use Doctrine of the United States Copyright Law (Title 17, USC).
14. Use of the network for any unlawful purpose is prohibited.
15. Use of profanity, obscenity, racist terms, or other language that may be offensive to another user is prohibited.
16. Playing games is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a teacher for instructional purposes.
17. Establishing network or Internet connections to live communications, including voice and/or video (relay chat), is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the system administrator.

Disclaimer

1. Pursuant to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (18 USC 2510 et seq.), notice is hereby given that there are no facilities provided by this system for sending or receiving private or confidential electronic communications. System administrators have access to all mail and will monitor messages. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
2. Any violation of this policy will subject the violator to disciplinary action, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any disciplinary action authorized under the entire range of discipline provided for the Student Code of Conduct and the Pike County Board of Education Policy Manual and; in addition, prohibition of further use of the Internet by the violator.

Pike County School Internet Acceptable Usage Contract

User Agreement (to be signed by all adult users and student users above grade 4):

I, _____ (please print full name), hereby certify that I have received a copy of the Pike County Schools' Internet and Instructional Technology Acceptable Use Policy and that receipt of said Policy serves as a notice to me and my parents and/or legal guardian of the policy and its provisions. I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to fully inform myself of the provisions of this Policy, and I understand and agree that I will fully comply with and abide by all provisions of this Policy. I understand and agree that any violation of this Policy may result in disciplinary action against me which can include, but shall not be limited to, any disciplinary action authorized under the entire range of discipline provided for in the Student Code of Conduct up to and including expulsion, and, in addition, prohibition of use of the Internet. I hereby release and agree to hold harmless the Pike County Schools, the Pike County Board of Education and all other organizations and persons from any liability, loss, expense, claims, or damages, whether to person or property, arising from my use of the Internet. In addition, I hereby agree to accept full responsibility and liability for the consequences of my use of the Internet.

User Signature & Date

Witness Signature

Parent Agreement (to be signed by parents of all students):

I, _____ (please print full name), the parent/guardian of the above student, hereby certify that I have read the Pike County Schools' Internet and Instructional Technology Acceptable Use Policy. I agree and acknowledge that it is the responsibility of the above student to fully inform him/herself of the provisions of this Policy, and I agree with the requirement that the above student must fully comply with and abide by all provisions of this Policy. I understand and agree that any violation of this Policy by the above student may result in disciplinary action against him/her which can include, but shall not be limited to, any disciplinary action authorized under the entire range of discipline provided for in the Student Code of Conduct up to and including expulsion, and, on addition, prohibition of use of the Internet by that student. I hereby covenant and agree that I accept full responsibility for the use of the Internet by the above student, and I hereby agree to be responsible for all financial and legal liabilities and consequences which may result from the above student's use of the Internet and other technology services provided by the Pike County Schools. I hereby release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Pike County Board of Education, and all other organizations and persons from any liability, expense, loss, claims or damages, whether to person or property arising from the use of the Internet by the above student.

For my student in grades Pre-K – 12, I understand the Pike County School System will issue him/her an email account. I understand that the Pike County School System has determined what features my child has access to, which may include email, homework drop boxes, message boards, chat rooms, blogs, and digital storage lockers. I understand that all email messages and postings will be automatically filtered for inappropriate words and images, and that any messages determined to be questionable will be diverted to my student's email administrator for review. Consequences for misuse of email will be determined by the district, and may include restrictions, loss of privileges, or other disciplinary action. I further understand that my student's administrator or teacher can view my student's email account and digital locker at any time.

Parent Signature & Date