

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

PERMISSION FORM

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

The Alexander City Board of Education Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is designed to provide guidelines for using Internet in the classrooms, school media center, and computer labs in your school. Please read the attached policy. If you have any questions, you may contact the Technology Department at the Alexander City Board of Education at (256) 234-5074.

This policy must be read and signed by the student and a parent/guardian, and then returned to your child's homeroom teacher 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 the student violates the terms of this policy, he/she may lose privileges or be subject to discipline as defined in the Alexander City Board of Education Policy Manual. It is your responsibility to read and ask questions about this policy.

Your teacher is planning a discussion of this policy *after* you have had a chance to become familiar with it.

Thank you,

Mrs. Lou Ann Wagoner
Superintendent

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

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Internet Acceptable Use Policy. I further understand that this agreement will be kept on file at the school for the academic year in which it was signed.

_____ My child may use e-mail and the Internet while at school according to the rules outlined.

_____ I would prefer that my child not use e-mail and the Internet while at school.

Student's Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian's Name (printed)

Student's Signature

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Today's Date

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The term Internet as used in this policy will include the current concept of Internet and/or any other system of electronic mailing used by the school system.

Access to any form of electronic mailing, Internet, and/or any other similar type process within the school system will require the student to obtain parental/guardian permission verified by signatures on forms provided by the school system. Standards of use also apply to school system employees except for parental/guardian permission.

What is the Internet?

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.

What is possible?

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 to reach an education goal, some students may find ways to access other materials. Unfortunately, some of these resources contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. 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. Therefore, we respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

How should it be used?

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.

What is expected?

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 discipline as defined in the school conduct policy.

What are the privileges and rights of a user?

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 – All users have the right to privacy. However, if a user is believed to be in violation of the guidelines, a system administrator may review communications to maintain system integrity and to insure that students are using the system 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.

Inappropriate Materials or Language – **No** profane, abusive, 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.

What are the guidelines?

1. BE PREPARED to be held accountable for your actions. Exemplary behavior is expected from all users at all times.
2. Do notify an adult immediately if you encounter materials that violate the school code of conduct.
3. Do not use a computer or 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.
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, 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 your personal address or phone number of yourself or anyone else.
12. Do not access other student’s work, folders, or files.
13. Do not re-post non-academic personal communications without the original author’s prior consent.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

Disciplinary Actions for improper use of the internet. Actions taken to be determined by administrator after reviewing the severity of the infraction.

_____ Sending a warning reminder to parent and student about the AUP agreement

_____ Loss of Internet privileges for one week

_____ Loss of Internet privileges for one month

_____ Permanent loss of Internet privileges

_____ Other disciplinary actions