

# Rhea County School System

## Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

Please read this document carefully before signing.

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the System. We are very pleased to bring this access to the System and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

1. Electronic mail (e-mail) communication with people all over the world;
2. Information and news from NASA as well as the opportunity to correspond with the scientists at NASA and other research institutions;
3. Public domain software and graphics of all types for school use; -
4. Discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from Chinese culture to the environment to music to politics;
5. Access to many University Library catalogs, the Library of Congress, and ERIC, a large collection of relevant information to educators and students; and
6. Graphical access to the World Wide Web, the newest and most exciting access tool on the Internet.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The System has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information.

The System firmly believes that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the System. Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks.

In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources.

If a System user violates any of these provisions, his or her account may be terminated and future access could be denied.

The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicate(s) the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

6.41A

## **Internet -- Terms and Conditions of Use**

**Acceptable Use** - The purpose of the backbone networks making up the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your access must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the System. Use of another organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.

**Privileges** - The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. (Each student or teacher who receives access will be part of a discussion with a System staff member pertaining to the proper use of the network.) The System Technology Coordinators will deem what is inappropriate use. Also, the System Technology Coordinators may restrict access at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of the System may request the System Technology Coordinators to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts or access.

The privilege of using the Rhea County Dept. of Education network comes with the responsibility to verify that usage relates to educational activities, and not for personal gain. Software packages such as Napster, BearShare, Morpheus, or LimeWire, that are designed for filesharing through Gnutella or other networks are strictly prohibited due to the heavy bandwidth drain and high security risk they cause. Downloading music and video files for the purpose of copying via cd burners or zip drives is also prohibited. The loading of AOL or similar 3<sup>rd</sup> party internet access programs on school computers is prohibited as it offers a breach of security while also compromising the Internet Filtering software.

**Network Etiquette** - You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others;
2. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden;