

ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY GUIDELINES
FOR THE COMPUTER NETWORK OF THE
FANNIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Fannin County School District is pleased to make available to students access to interconnected computer systems within the District and to the Internet, the world-wide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities.

Access to the School District's computer systems and the Internet is provided for educational purposes and research that is consistent with the school district's educational mission and goals. In order for the school district to be able to continue to make its computer network and internet access available, every student must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access. Students must understand that the use of the school district's computer network and internet access is a privilege, not a right. Misuse may jeopardize those privileges and subject the student to potential disciplinary and legal action.

Fannin County School District will enforce the following Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Guidelines. Upon reading the guidelines, each student must sign the Internet Network Access Agreement before they will be given the opportunity to enjoy Internet access at school. If a student is under the age of 18, his or her parents or legal guardian must also read and sign the agreement. The school district will not provide access to any student who fails to obtain the required signature on the agreement.

Below are the provisions and guidelines you agree to comply with and uphold. If you have any questions about these provisions, you should contact Dr. Michael Gwatney, Fannin County School System Director of Technology & Media Services, at the Fannin County School System Technology Center: 706-258-2791.

Anyone violating these guidelines shall be subject to, at least, the revocation of privileges.

I. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The act of signing the Internet Network Access Agreement signifies your agreement to follow not only the rules in these guidelines, but also your agreeing to refrain from any other misuse of the computer network that is not included in the guidelines but has the effect of harming another or his or her property. Students and their parents will be responsible for compensating the school district for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the district relating to or arising out of the misuse of the school's network.

II. TERM OF PERMITTED USE

A student who submits to the school, as directed, a properly signed agreement and follows the guidelines to which she or he has agreed will have computer network and Internet access during the course of the student's enrollment in the Fannin County School System.

III. ACCEPTABLE USES

The school district is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet for only educational purposes and research consistent with the school district's educational mission and goals. If you are unsure about whether a particular activity is educational or consistent with the school's mission, you may consult with your teacher to help you decide if a use is appropriate.

IV. UNACCEPTABLE USES

Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of the guidelines are the following:

- A. Accessing, sending or posting materials or communications that are:
 - 1. Damaging to another's reputation
 - 2. Abusive
 - 3. Obscene
 - 4. Sexually oriented
 - 5. Threatening
 - 6. Contrary to the school's policy on harassment
 - 7. Illegal
- B. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violations of copyright or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of Federal and State laws and regulations
- C. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain
- D. Wastefully using resources
- E. Utilizing any software having the purpose of damaging the school district's system or other user's system
- F. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities
- G. Invading the privacy of others
- H. Using another user's password or account
- I. Posting material authorized or created by another without his or her consent
- J. Posting of anonymous messages
- K. Using the network for commercial or private advertising
- L. Forging of electronic mail messages
- M. Attempting to read, delete, copy or modify the electronic mail of other system users and deliberately interfering with the ability of other system users to send or receive electronic mail
- N. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked
- O. Using the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers and other staff and generally accepted network etiquette
- P. Make use of Internet chat lines

V. INTERNET SAFETY

- A. Individual Responsibility of Parents and User: All users and their parents or guardians are advised that due to the nature of the Internet, it is extremely difficult for the Board of Education to completely regulate and monitor the information received or sent by

students. Students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet. Parents are the best guide as to which material should not be accessed. Therefore, parents must participate and communicate their own expectations to their student regarding materials on the Internet.

- B. Personal Safety: Be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your full name, home address or home telephone number. Do not arrange an in-person meeting with someone you “meet” on the computer network or Internet without your parent’s permission.
- C. “Hacking” and Other Illegal Activities: It is a violation of these guidelines to use the school’s computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access.
- D. Active Restriction Measures: The school district, either by itself or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technical means, to ensure that the students are not accessing such depictions or any other materials which are inappropriate for minors.

VI. PRIVACY

Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for your education. The school district reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by a user. Therefore, privacy is not guaranteed. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the school district and no user shall have the expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

VII. FAILURE TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES

The use of the computer network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Anyone violating these guidelines shall be subject to having their privileges revoked and potential disciplinary or legal actions.

INTERNET NETWORK ACCESS AGREEMENT

I accept responsibility to abide by the Fannin County School System's Acceptable Use Guidelines. I understand that the use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege not a right, and I agree:

- To use the computer network and Internet for appropriate educational purpose and research;
- To use the computer network and Internet only with permission of teachers and administrators;
- To be considerate of other users on the network and use appropriate language for school situations;
- Not to intentionally degrade or disrupt Internet network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, or violating copyright laws;
- To immediately report any security problems or breaches of these responsibilities to appropriate School staff;
- To comply with all of the rules and expectations included in the policy and procedures;
- Not to divulge personal information such as addresses and telephone numbers over the Internet.

I understand that I have no right to privacy when I use the school Internet network, and I consent to staff monitoring of my communications. I also understand that any conduct that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate and may result in termination of network access and possible disciplinary action.

Student name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Due to the nature of the Internet, it is neither practical nor possible for the Board of Education to enforce compliance with user rules at all times. Accordingly, parents and students must recognize that students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet. Therefore, parents must participate in the decision whether to allow their children access to the Internet and must communicate their own expectations to their children regarding its use.

As the parent/legal guardian of the above student, I have read, understand and agree that my child or ward shall comply with the terms of the School District's Use and Internet Safety Guidelines for student access to the School District's computer network and the Internet.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____