

TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET USE

The Internet is available to students and school employees to increase the use of technology as a teaching and learning tool. Our goal is to promote student achievement and facilitate communication in order to share resources in education, business, government, and science. Use of these resources is considered a privilege to which great responsibility is attached. To that end, the board of education has enacted a strict policy governing acceptable use of the Internet and technology resources. The policy is found in the appendix. Parents wishing to prohibit their child's ability to access the Internet should provide notice in writing to the school.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

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The Effingham County Board of Education is committed to preparing students for the challenges of life in the 21st Century. This includes providing opportunities for students to become competent and responsible users of technology. One of the tools for accomplishing this is the Internet. The Internet is the "electronic highway" that connects thousands of computers worldwide and makes possible access to a vast array of educational resources that, until recently, were inaccessible to students, teachers, and parents.

The Internet is now available to the students and employees of the Effingham County School System as part of an overall plan to increase the use of technology as a teaching and learning tool. Our goal is to promote student achievement and to facilitate communication in order to share resources with others in education, business, government, and science.

The Internet enables access to:

- World Wide Web databases
- Electronic mail communication with people all over the world
- Public domain and shareware software
- Access to libraries, large and small, worldwide
- News and information from research institutions
- Discussion groups on topics ranging from music and art to science and engineering

Access to computers, people, and information the world over can be invaluable to students and teachers; however, some material available over the Internet may not be considered educational and can even be considered controversial. Students and teachers may, in the course of researching topics, discover controversial, and even offensive, information. It is the position of the Effingham County Board of Education that the value of the information available and the opportunities for worldwide interaction on the Internet far outweigh the negative aspect that users may access information that is not consistent with the educational goals of the school system.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Privileges: The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges. Each Internet user must first participate in a training session on the appropriate use of the Internet. Building administrators will determine what is inappropriate use. Administrators and staff may request that Internet privileges be denied, revoked, or suspended. All decisions by the administrator are final.

Acceptable Use: The purpose of providing access to the Internet is to promote learning through research and collaboration. The use of the Internet must be consistent with this and with the instructional objectives

of the Effingham County School System. Internet use for professional development purposes is acceptable, as well, so long as it does not interfere with instructional use.

Users must agree to abide by the following guidelines:

- Users may not give out personal information such as names, phone numbers, or addresses of themselves or others, over the Internet.
- Users may not access or send material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, and the board of education shall install and operate technology protection measures including commercial Internet blocking and filtering software that blocks or filters access to such material and any other materials that are determined to be inappropriate by school or system administrators. The terms "obscene", "child pornography" and "harmful to minors" have the meanings given such terms in section 1460 of Title 18, section 2256 of Title 18, and section 254 (h)(7)(G) of Title 47, United States Code, respectively.
- Users may not willfully violate copyright laws of the United States or the established copyright policies of the local board of education.
- Users may not engage in any unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking", or other unlawful activities while using the Internet.
- Users may not engage in non-educational games or waste valuable online time.
- Users may not download software from the Internet without the permission of the site administrator.
- Users may not engage in acts of vandalism, including harming or destroying data of another user. This includes uploading, downloading, or creating computer viruses.
- Users may not harass others by persistent annoyance or interference while others are online. This includes, but is not limited to, sending unwanted e-mail.
- Users must observe common rules of network etiquette such as politeness and allowing others ample online time.

Security: Users are required to notify the classroom teacher, network administrator, school administrator, or Information Technology department if they observe a security problem. Use of the Internet, including electronic mail (e-mail), chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications, are not private and for the safety and security of the users will be monitored. Inappropriate or unlawful messages will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Publishing on the World Wide Web: Student work will be published only under the direction of the supervising teacher(s) and with the approval of the school's media committee and school principal.