

INSTRUCTION

6:235 Internet Use Policy and Accompanying Procedures

The Rhodes Board of Education's goal is to include the Internet in the District's instructional program. The Superintendent/his/her designee shall develop an implementation plan for this policy and appoint a system administrator.

The District is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved via the Internet. Furthermore, the District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

Individual Board members and administrative staff shall be treated like teachers. "Internet" includes all information accessed by Internet sites, E-mail, on-line services, and bulletin board systems.

Curriculum and Appropriate Online Behavior

The use of the District's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students, and (2) comply with the selection criteria for instructional materials and library resource center materials. As required by federal law and Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including but not limited to: (1) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (2) cyberbullying awareness and response. Staff members may, consistent with the Superintendent's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

The Internet is part of the curriculum and is not a public forum for general use.

Acceptable Use - All use of the District's connection to the Internet must be in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the Board of Education's stated goal. Use is a privilege, not a right. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using the Internet. The District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol for the Internet. Electronic communications and downloaded material may be monitored or read by school officials.

Authorization for Internet Access - Each teacher must sign the *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks* as a condition for using the District's connection. Each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the Authorization before being granted unsupervised use.

The failure of any student or teacher to follow the terms of the *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks*, or this policy will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

Internet Safety

Technology protection measures shall be used on each District computer with Internet access. They shall include a filtering device that protects against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by federal law and as determined by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the Superintendent or system administrator. The Superintendent or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following:

1. Ensure staff supervision of student access to online electronic networks,
2. Restrict student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials,
3. Ensure student and staff privacy, safety, and security when using electronic communications,
4. Restrict unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, and
5. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information, such as, names and addresses.

Procedures Governing the Use of the Internet

Accepted use of the internet shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. This Authorization does not attempt to state all required or prescribed behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. The failure of any user to follow the terms of the Authorization for Internet Access will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

Terms and Conditions

1. Unacceptable Use - You are responsible for your actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- a. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any Federal or State regulation
 - b. Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or devirused
 - c. Downloading copyrighted material
 - d. Using the network for private, financial or commercial gain
 - e. Wastefully using resources, such as file space
 - f. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities
 - g. Invading the privacy of individuals
 - h. Using another user's account or password
 - i. Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent
 - j. Posting anonymous messages
 - k. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material
 - l. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
2. Network Etiquette - You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Be polite. Do not become abusive in your messages to others.
 - b. Use appropriate language. Swearing or the use of inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
 - c. Do not reveal the personal addresses or telephone numbers of students or colleagues.
 - d. Recognize that electronic mail (E-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities and prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law.
 - e. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
3. Responsibility - The District will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is your responsibility. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
4. Security - Network security is a high priority. If you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify the system administrator or Building Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep your account and password confidential. Do not use another individual's account. Attempts to log-on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as security risk may be denied access to network.
5. Vandalism - Vandalism to hardware or software will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

All employees, students and parents will sign a form which reviews the procedures and expectations of the District in the use of its Internet connection.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7131, Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l), Children's Internet Protection Act.

47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries.

115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

720 ILCS 5/26.5.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:170 (Copyright), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:230 (Library Resource Center), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

Adopted: October 18, 2021

