Silsbee ISD Student Acceptable Use Policy

Student Use of the Internet

Silsbee ISD is pleased to offer students access to a computer network for Internet research and communications. In order to gain access to the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the attached form. Should a parent prefer that a student not have Internet access, use of the computers is still possible for more traditional purposes such as word processing.

- What is possible?

Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information around the world. Silsbee ISD has purchased and implemented filtering software that will prevent most of the objectionable material from being viewed by students. While the purposes of the school are to use Internet resources for constructive educational goals, students may find ways to access other materials. Families should be aware that some defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive material may still penetrate the filtering software even though it is updated two or three times a week. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

- What is expected?

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and the specific rules set forth below. The use of the network is a student privilege, not a student right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. Any misconduct while using district technology equipment will have punitive consequences. The students are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see.

- What are the rules?

Inappropriate materials or languages—profane, abusive or impolite language should not be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior. A good rule to follow is never view, send, or access materials that you would not want your teachers and parents to see. Should students encounter such material by accident, they should report it to their teacher immediately.

Illegal copying—Students should never download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware on to network drives or disks. Students should not copy other peoples' work or intrude into other peoples' files. Students may not remove Silsbee ISD property, including software, from the campus without permission from an administrator or an administrative designee. There will be severe discipline and legal consequences.

Privacy—Network and computer storage areas may be treated like school lockers. The Silsbee ISD maintains the right to review student communications to insure that students are using the system responsibly.

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Guidelines for Appropriate Use

These guidelines must be followed to prevent the loss of network privileges at school.

- Do not use a computer to harm other people or their work.

- Do not damage the computer or the network in any way.

- Do not interfere with network operations by installing illegal software, shareware or freeware.

- Do not load any other Internet provider software (example: AOL) onto district computers.

- Do not violate copyright laws.

- Do not view, send, or display offensive messages or pictures.

- Do not share your password with another person.

- Do not waste limited resources such as disk space or printing capacity.

- Do not use another student's password or trespass in another student's work or files.

- Do notify an adult immediately if, by accident, you encounter materials that violate appropriate use.

- Do abide by the Rules of Appropriate Use. You will be held accountable for your actions and for the loss of privileges if the Rules of Appropriate Use are violated.

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

Students are prohibited from sending, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.