

MCNAIRY COUNTY INTERNET/ELECTRONIC MEDIA ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Please read following carefully before signing this document. This is a legally binding document.

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the McNairy County School System. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in the McNairy County 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, among other things,

1. Electronic mail communication with people all over the world;
2. Information and news from research institutions;
3. Public domain and software of all types;
4. Discussion groups on a variety of topics; and
5. Access to many University Library Catalogs, the Library of Congress, CARL and ERIC.

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. Available precautions will be taken 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, but the valuable information and interaction material that is not consistent with the educational goals of this project. Ultimately, parents and guardians are responsible for getting and conveying the standards that their children should follow on the use of the Internet, just as they do on the use of all media information services.

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. Any violation of these provisions, may result in temporary or permanent loss of access to the Internet, and may result in disciplinary action against the user, up to and including suspension / expulsion for students. If appropriate and necessary, law enforcement agencies will be notified and could be involved. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

INTERNET – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. *Acceptable Use* – Your use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the school district. Use of other organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material or material protected by a trade secret. Use for private purposes or for commercial activities is not acceptable. Any illegal use for product advertising or political lobbying is also prohibited. Any use which violates existing Board policy or public law is prohibited.
2. *Privileges* – The use of Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of these privileges, and could result in disciplinary action against the user as set forth above. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the administration may deny access at any time as required.
3. *Net Etiquette* – You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a) Avoid offensive or inflammatory speech. Be courteous and polite.
 - b) Use appropriate language. Profanity or obscenity is not permitted at any time.
 - c) Do not reveal you personal address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
 - d) Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - e) Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the work of others.
 - f) All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property. Do not quote personal communications without the author's prior consent.
 - g) Anonymous communications are not allowed.
 - h) Files, data or information of others must not be improperly accessed or misused.
 - i) Messages must be deleted regularly to conserve space.

4. *Vandalism* – Vandalism will result in a cancellation of privileges and possible disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, software or data of another user, Internet or other networks that are connected to the Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses that infiltrate computing systems and/or damage software components. Precautions to prevent viruses on school equipment are the responsibility of the users. Backup copies of documents are also the responsibility of the user.
5. *Security* – Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Never share your password or account with anyone, and never leave your account open and unattended. You have full responsibility for the use of your account, and can be held responsible for any policy violations that are traced to your account. User passwords must be changed regularly using combinations of letters and numbers, avoiding standard English words and names. Security violations must be reported to the principal / asst. principal immediately. The school board and school shall have the right to review, monitor, and restrict information stored on transmitted via school owned or leased equipment and to investigate suspected inappropriate use of resources.
6. *Exception of Terms and Condition* – These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersedes all prior oral and written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee and the United States of America.

I understand and will abide by the above Terms and Conditions for Internet. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action may be pursued.

User Signature

____/____/____
Date

PARENT OR GUARDIAN(If you are under the age pf 18, a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.)

As the parent/guardian of _____, I have read the Terms and Conditions for Internet access. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and the school system and the State Department of Education Office of Technology have taken available precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials acquired on the network, and that the Board of Education and its employees shall not be responsible for ideas and concepts my child may obtain by his/her use of the Internet. Further I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

I understand and accept the conditions stated and agree to hold harmless and release from liability, the McNairy County Board of Education, the school, the superintendent, the technology coordinator, the principals, and the teachers.

Parent or Guardian (please print):_____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date