ENNIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees that information accessed and disseminated electronically in the Ennis School district appropriately reflect the educational goals and objectives of the district and educational missions of the schools.

Educators have a professional responsibility to work together to help students develop the intellectual skills needed to discriminate among information resources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, to acquire related safety skills and to evaluate and use telecommunication technologies to meet their educational goals.

Ennis School district recognizes that the telecommunication environment is constantly changing: therefore, it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate. Just as the purchase, availability, and use of media materials does not indicate endorsement of their content by school officials, neither does making electronic information available to students imply endorsement of that content. Telecommunication technologies are to be utilized at Ennis Public Schools to realize curricular objectives through the retrieval of information and/or communication with others and Ennis personnel will provide appropriate supervision.

GUIDELINES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK SYSTEM USE

No student shall have access to the telecommunications network without having a signed Computer Network Consent form on file with the District. Students who are under 1 8 must have their parents’ signature on the consent form before it becomes valid. Students over 18 must realize they are responsible as students and individually as adults for misuse of electronic equipment. At the time of filing the completed user release form the user shall be designated "Authorized User' privileges and shall be eligible to use the telecommunications network via either a district or personally owned computer operated in district owned facilities

Authorized use of the system shall be only for legitimate educational pursuits that are in support of educational endeavors that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the District. Additionally, any use of the system must conform to state and federal laws governing network provider policies and licenses.

Examples of misuse include, but are not limited to:

. Non-directed classroom work that lends itself to the support or opposition of a political candidate, group, or ballot measure

. The use of the system for charitable purposes that have not been cleared with the Technology Coordinator or designee.

. The use of the system for non-district commercial purposes or solicitations. The unauthorized downloading, installation, use, storage, or distribution of copyrighted software, and/or materials on district computers

* Malicious use of the system to develop programs or documents that harass or harm other, to gain access to any computer or computer system to damage the components of the computer or the system be it District owned or otherwise,
* Any distribution of private or public materials that are inconsistent with the District harassment-free environment policies, or hate mail, discriminatory remarks, or other unwelcome statements and/or compliments or other anti-social items
* Use of the system to access, store, or distribute obscene, pornographic, or inappropriately suggestive materials.
* The use of the system to promote or participate in any activity that is in violation of any state or federal regulation, or that purports to discredit any person, agency, or organization of local, state, or federal government.

. The use of the District's system to conduct personal home pages published under the school's auspices.

* The revelation of personal information, their own or other, such as home addresses and telephone numbers in areas not consistent with educational purposes.
* Meeting people in person that they have contacted on the system without parent/guardian permission.
* Failure to notify the Technology Coordinator, teacher, adult or District representative whenever they come across information or messages that are dangerous, inappropriate, or make them feel uncomfortable.

Nothing in these guidelines is intended to preclude the supervised use of the system while under the direction of a teacher or other approved user acting in conformity with District policy and procedure.

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**SECURITY GUIDELINES FOR NETWORK USE**

System accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for authorized purposes. Users may not share their account number or password with another person or leave an open file or session unattended or unsupervised. Account owners are responsible for all activity under their account. There is no reasonable expectation of personal privacy in the use of account files. Such files are district property and are subject to regular review and monitoring by District personnel to ensure the responsible use of electronic files consistent with the terms of this policy.

Users shall not gain or seek information, obtain copies of or modify files or passwords, or use any other means, to gain unauthorized access to district systems and information.

Communication may not be encrypted in order to avoid review for security and policy violations.

ENNIS SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL:

Review and monitor, as appropriate, all activity on the network for responsible use consistent with the terms of this policy and procedure, and state and federal guidelines controlling Internet activities.

Make determinations in regard to whether specific uses of the network are consistent with these acceptable use guidelines.

Remove a user's access to the network, with or without notice, at any time the District determines that the user is engaged in unauthorized activity or violation of this policy. In addition, further disciplinary or corrective actions (s) may be imposed for violations of the policy up to and including termination of employment for staff or appropriate disciplinary sanctions for students.

Cooperate fully with law enforcement investigation concerning or relating to any suspected or alleged inappropriate activities on the network or any other electronic media.

Modify, delete or otherwise change these guidelines and procedures at anytime.