

## **Russell County USD 407**

### **STUDENT USAGE: TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF INTERNET**

Internet access is available to students in Russell County schools. The district provides this access because it believes the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources. The goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in the Russell 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 have access to:

1. electronic mail communication with people all over the world;
2. information and news and the opportunity to correspond with scientists, researchers, others;
3. public domain software and shareware of all types;
4. discussion groups on a wide range of topics;
5. many university library catalogs;
6. the World Wide Web, with its virtually limitless amount of information and resources.

With access to computers 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. The school district has taken available precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and it may be possible to discover controversial material and information. The school district believes that the valuable information and interaction available on the Internet far outweighs the possibility that users may encounter or obtain material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the district.

The smooth operation of the Internet relies upon the proper conduct of the end users - who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that users are aware of individual responsibilities. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a user violates any of these provisions, privileges will be terminated, and future access could be denied. The signature(s) at the end of this document indicate that the signer(s) has/have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

#### **Internet - Terms and Conditions**

- (1) **Acceptable Use:** The underlying purpose of the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic and other institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of student access must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of Russell County schools. Use of another organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use of the school district's resources for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.
- (2) **Privileges:** Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges.
- (3) **Netiquette:** Students 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 bully, be abusive, or offensive in messages to others.
  - (b) Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
  - (c) Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.

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- (d) Remember that e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to law enforcement authorities.
  - (e) Do not use the network in such a way that could disrupt the use of the network by other users.
  - (f) All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
- (4) No warranties of any kind: - expressed or implied - are made for the service being provided. The school district, including its officers or employees, will not be responsible for any damages the user may suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or user errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained is at the user's own risk, and the school district specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
- (5) Security: Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Any user identified or believed to be a security risk, or who has a history of problems with other computer systems, may be denied access to the Internet.
- (6) Vandalism: Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any agency or network that is connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of any type of computer virus.

*I understand and will abide by the above Terms and Conditions for Internet access. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, as well as appropriate legal action.*

(Electronic signatures are as binding as handwritten signatures.)

User: (Please, print your name.) \_\_\_\_\_

User Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

(If the student is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.)

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the Terms and Conditions for Internet Access. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and that the Russell School District has taken available precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize that it is impossible for the district to eliminate or restrict access to all controversial materials. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not within the school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_