

ACCEPTABLE INTERNET USE POLICY

The Polk-Hordville (Neb.) school district developed the Acceptable Internet Use Policy excerpted below, through which students and a parent commit to responsible use of the Internet and E-mail. Keith Leckron, middle and high school principal in the rural district, took advantage of the Internet's resources when he formulated the policy in 1996. He searched through policies posted on-line by other districts and used a cut-and-paste method to flesh out the following clear and comprehensive policy for his district.

"We debated using a filtering system," says Leckron, "but felt that the responsibility of Internet use lies with the students, rather than a system that would block sites they might need for research. The parent signature is another way to get parents involved in their child's education."

DISTRICT INTERNET AND E-MAIL REGULATIONS

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. These are outlined in the student handbook.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. Access is a privilege — not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

As outlined in Board policy and procedures on students' rights and responsibilities, copies of which are available in school offices, the following are not permitted:

- ▲ Sending or displaying hateful or pornographic messages or pictures
- ▲ Using obscene language or profanity
- ▲ Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- ▲ Engaging in promoting violence
- ▲ Engaging in racial, gender or other slurs
- ▲ Receiving or transmitting information pertaining to dangerous instrumentalities such as bombs, automatic weapons, or other illicit firearms, weaponry, or explosive devices
- ▲ Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- ▲ Violating copyright laws
- ▲ Using others' passwords
- ▲ Trespassing in others' folders, work or files
- ▲ Intentionally wasting limited resources
- ▲ Employing the network for commercial purposes
- ▲ Transmitting personal information without written parental consent
- ▲ Accessing areas considered as borderline without written parental consent

Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

USER AGREEMENT AND PARENT PERMISSION FORM

As a user of the _____ computer network, I hereby agree to comply with the stated regulations, communicating over the network in a reliable fashion while honoring all relevant laws and restrictions.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the minor student signing above, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access networked computer services such as electronic mail and the Internet. I understand that individuals and families may be held liable for violations. I understand that some materials on the Internet may be objectionable, but I accept responsibility for guidance of Internet use — setting and conveying standards for my daughter or son to follow when selecting, sharing or exploring information and media. I also understand that I will be notified by the Network Administrator if my son or daughter is accessing questionable material.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Student _____ Student I.D. # _____

School _____ Grade _____

Soc. Sec. # _____ Birth Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR'S USE ONLY

Network Administrator Signature _____ Date _____

Log-in _____

Password _____

Date Account Activated _____ Date account deactivated _____

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