



INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Phenix City School District will be offering access to the Internet. To gain access, each student user must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the permission form.

Employees shall sign an Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) form. Parents or guests wishing to use the District's Internet access will also sign the AUP form.

What is the Internet?

The Internet is a global network made up of many smaller contributing networks connecting thousands of computers throughout the world and millions of individual subscribers. Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. While there is an abundance of valuable information, with this access comes the availability of materials that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting.

What is possible?

Through the Internet, users can explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other resources. They can exchange personal communication with other users around the world. While the use of the Internet is primarily instructional in nature, to reach an educational goal some students may find ways to access other materials. Unfortunately some of these resources contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. Most educators believe the benefits to students from access to the Internet exceed the disadvantages. Parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards their children should follow when using these resources. Therefore, the Phenix Board of Education respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

How should it be used?

The Internet should be used for research and education through the provision of unique resources and opportunities for collaboration among students, teachers, and administrators. Use of the Internet must support this and be consistent with the educational objectives of the school.

School District Statements for Use

Users are responsible for appropriate behavior while using the Internet. Additionally, users are responsible for their actions while using the equipment and the resources. Use is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. Vandalism of equipment or programs will result in disciplinary referral as prescribed by student/employee conduct policies.

The Phenix City School District makes no guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding the reliability of the data connection or the information. The Phenix City School district shall not be liable for any loss or corruption of data resulting while using the Internet connection.

The Phenix City School District reserves the right to examine all data stored in the machines involved in the Internet link to make sure that all users are in compliance.

No user shall use this Internet link to perform any act that may be construed as illegal or unethical, including the use of the link to gain unauthorized access to other systems on the network.

The Phenix City School District condemns the illegal distribution of software, otherwise known as pirating. Any user caught transferring such files through the Internet, and any whose accounts are found to contain such illegal files, shall immediately have their accounts permanently revoked. In addition, all users should be aware that software piracy is a federal offense and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Finally, all users should keep in mind that when they use the Internet, they are entering a global community, and any actions taken by them will reflect upon the Phenix City School District as a whole. As such, all users must behave in an ethical and legal manner.

What are the privileges and rights of a user?

All users have certain privileges and rights. Infringement of or disrespect to the rights of others may result in the loss of Internet privileges. These rights include:

Privacy—All users have the right to privacy. However, if a user is suspected to be in violation of the guidelines, a system administrator may review communications to maintain system integrity and to ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

Safety—Any user who receives threatening or unwelcome communications shall bring them to the attention of a system administrator or teacher.

Intellectual Freedom—Any statement of personal belief is implicitly understood to be representative of the author’s individual point of view and not that of the school.

Inappropriate Materials or Language—No profane, abusive, or impolite language shall be used to communicate nor shall materials be intentionally accessed which are not in line with the rules of exemplary school behavior.

Equal Access—All users will be granted free and equal access within the guidelines of this policy to the Internet. Exploration of the Internet is encouraged relative to the purposes of research and education. No single user shall monopolize the workstations connected to the Internet.

What are the guidelines?

Users will be expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:

Be prepared to be held accountable for your actions. Exemplary behavior is expected from all users at all times.

Do notify an adult immediately if you encounter materials that violate the school code of conduct.

Do not use a computer or the Internet to hurt, harass, attack or harm other people or their work.

Do not damage the computer or network in any way.

Do not degrade the performance of the network through the posting of electronic chain letters or other useless information.

Do not use the Internet for illegal activities, i.e. threats, instructions on how to perform an illegal act, child pornography, drug dealing, purchase of alcohol, gang activities, etc.

Do not install software or download unauthorized files, games, programs, or other electronic media.

Do not violate copyright laws.

Do not use the equipment to intentionally view, send/receive, or display obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language, messages or pictures.

Do not share your password with another person.

Do not reveal personal addresses or phone numbers.

Do not access other users’ work, folders, or files.

Do not post or re-post non-academic personal communications without the original author's prior consent.

Do not employ the network for commercial or personal purposes.

Do not use the network for product advertising or political lobbying.

Do not violate the regulations of the service provider.

Do not sign up for non-academic or personal rooms that will generate unsolicited e-mail correspondence to your account.

What are the consequences of misuse by the students?

Students violating the terms of this policy may lose use privilege and/or receive punishment as defined in the Phenix City Schools' Student Code of Conduct.

What are the consequences of misuse by school personnel?

Personnel violating the terms of this policy may lose use privileges, be disciplined and/or terminated.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY PERMISSION FORM

Date _____

Dear Parents and Students:

The Phenix City School District Internet Acceptable Use Policy is designed to provide guidelines for using Internet in the classrooms, school media center, and computer labs of your school this year. Please take the time to read this policy. If you have any questions about it, please be sure to contact _____ at _____.

This policy must be read and signed both by the student Internet user and a parent/guardian, and then returned to your child's homeroom teacher. Please return the signed form as soon as possible, since you will not be given access to the Internet until you have agreed to this policy.

Please note that if you violate the terms of this policy, you may lose use privileges and/or receive punishment as defined in the student handbook. It is your responsibility to read and ask questions about this policy.

Your teacher is planning an in-class discussion of this policy after you have had a chance to become familiar with it.

Thank you,

Please return this form to your teacher as soon as possible.

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Internet Acceptable Use Policy. I further understand that this agreement will be kept on file at the school for the academic year in which it was signed.

___ My child may use e-mail and the Internet while at school according to the rules outlined.

___ My child's artwork, picture or writing may be published on the World Wide Web, a part of the Internet. We further understand that the work will appear with a copyright notice prohibiting the copying of such work without express written permission. In the event anyone requests such permission, those requests will be forwarded to us as parents. No home address or telephone number will appear with such work.

___ I would prefer that my child not use e-mail and the Internet while at school.

Student's Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian's Name (printed)

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian's Signature

This is a generic Acceptable Use Policy form.
The school of attendance will provide you with a form for that school's computer/internet usage.

You will be asked to sign a new form when your child moves from school to school as your preference/mind may have changed from year to year.