

HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

(INTERNET PROCEDURES)

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY-STUDENTS

The Board of Education encourages and supports the welfare and safety of all users when using the Internet in all subjects and all facets of curriculum (written, taught, tested). The term “safety” of the Internet, applies to the use of accepted Internet etiquette and compliance with all legal and basic ethical constraints.

A. Prohibited Uses of Network. Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of these procedures are the following:

1. Use of the network for non-educational communication.
2. Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law.
3. Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property.
4. Use of the computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access. Any use which violates state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance, is strictly prohibited.
5. Uses that jeopardize the security of student access and of the computer network or other networks on the Internet.
6. Uses that are commercial transactions.
7. The installation of software or downloading of unauthorized files, viruses, games, programs, or other electronic media.
8. Plagiarizing or using Internet resources for school assignments without citing references is.
9. Access of another user’s work, folders, or files.
10. Viewing, sending, or displaying obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language, messages, or pictures.
11. Connecting to networks which are outside of HCS measures of control or which violate blocked or filtered media and websites, both during school hours and/or on school system premises is strictly prohibited.

IF A STUDENT ACCESSES A SITE CONTAINING INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL, THE STUDENT MUST IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE TEACHER OR AN ADMINISTRATOR.- 22A -

B. INTERNET SAFETY

1. General Warning: All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school-aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from these sites. If a student finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the teacher.

2. Confidentiality of Student Information. Personally identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without the permission of a teacher or administrator.

C. Personal Safety

1. Be safe at all times. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number, private or confidential information about yourself or others on the Internet.

2. Students will not give anyone on the Internet information about themselves or anyone else. This includes any of the following information: First and Last Name, School Name, School Mascot, Sport Team Names or affiliations, Home telephone Number, Home address (any part of), Parent's name(s), Age or Birthday (with year), particularly credit card numbers and Social Security numbers (in combination or alone).

3. Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you "meet" on the computer network or Internet without your teacher and parent's permission (if you are under 18).

4. Do not share photos of yourself, your family, or your home with people you meet online without prior permission from the supervising teacher or school administrator.

5. Do not give out Internet passwords to anyone other than parents or teachers.

D. INTERNET FILTERING

1. Filtering software will be utilized to help prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors. A supervising teacher or school administrator, as necessary, for purposes of bona fide research or other educational projects may request Internet filtering be disabled. Filtering will help provide the following:

2. Safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and

other forms of direct communication.

3. Unauthorized access, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities regarding minors online.
4. Unauthorized disclosures, use, and dissemination of personal information

regarding minors.- 23A -

E. PRIVACY

Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for your education. The Huntsville City Schools reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the Huntsville City Schools and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

F. FAILURE TO FOLLOW PROCEDURES

The use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user, who violates these procedures, shall at a minimum, have his or her access to the computer network and Internet terminated. The Huntsville City Schools may refuse to reinstate access for the remainder of the student’s enrollment in the Huntsville City Schools. A user violating these procedures by his or her own action or by failing to report any violations by other users will be denied access to the network. Further, a user violates these procedures if he or she permits another to use his or her account or password to access the computer network and Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated. The Huntsville City Schools may take other disciplinary action in such circumstances.

G. WARRANTIES/INDEMNIFICATION

1. The Huntsville City Schools makes no warranties of any kind, either express or

implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under these procedures. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney’s fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user’s use of its computer networks or the Internet under these procedures. By signing this handbook, users are taking full responsibility for his or her use, and the user who is 18 or older or, in the case of a user under 18, the parent(s) or guardian(s) are agreeing to indemnify and hold the School, the School District, the Data Acquisition Site that provides the computer and Internet access opportunity to the School District and all of their administrators, teachers, and staff harmless from any and all loss, costs, claims or damages resulting from the user’s access to its computer network and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchases of goods or services by the user. The user or, if the user is a minor, the user’s parent(s) or guardian(s) agree to cooperate with the school in the event of the School’s initiating an investigation of a user’s use of his

or her access to its computer network and the Internet, whether that use is on a school computer or on another computer outside the Huntsville City School network.

2. Any illegal or inappropriate use of the Internet not specifically stated above is Prohibited.