

## **General Computer and Internet Acceptable Use – Student Form**

Georgetown County School District students may have access to the Internet and other electronic networks. However, access is a privilege and not a right and carries with it responsibilities for all involved.

### **General Computer Usage**

The following actions are prohibited:

- Knowingly loading or creating viruses
- Loading or attempting to load software or files onto a school computer without the permission of the school's media specialist
- Loading or attempting to load software or files onto the District network without the permission of the Information Technology Department
- Accessing or modifying data without authorization
- Modifying passwords without authorization
- Computer vandalism, defined as any malicious or unauthorized attempt to harm or destroy equipment or data, files, or other electronic information not belonging specifically to the user

### **Internet Usage**

Access to the internet is made available to authorized users for educational and District operational purposes. All authorized users will receive instruction on proper use of the District's internet system. The District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites, in chat rooms, and with e-mail and other direct electronic communications, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response.

The District prohibits the use of its internet system to intentionally access, view, download, store, transmit, or receive any information that contains material which is in violation of any District policy or administrative rule, or any local, state and/or federal laws or regulations. Prohibited material includes, but is not limited to:

- Obscenity or pornography
- Threats
- Material that is intended, or could reasonably be perceived, to be harassing or discriminatory
- Material that is copyrighted or protected by trade secret
- Material used to further any commercial business, product advertising, virus transmission or political activity
- For student use, materials that are inappropriate for or harmful to minors

The District utilizes technology protection measures to block and/or filter Internet access to images that are obscene, depict child pornography, and, for computers utilized by students, are otherwise harmful to minors. In addition, the District will monitor the online activities of minors, as appropriate, when utilizing District computers and internet system. However, the District recognizes that it is impossible to control access to all inappropriate or controversial materials and prevent all unauthorized activities of users. Therefore, the District will take the

appropriate disciplinary action against students and personnel for unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” other unlawful activities utilizing the District internet system, and violations of this policy.

The District reserves the right to monitor and/or review all uses of the District internet system and users should not have any expectation of privacy in any information accessed, viewed, downloaded, stored, transmitted, or received on the District’s internet system.

## **Violations**

All authorized users of District research and communication resources are expected to report any use that is believed to be unauthorized, excessive or otherwise in violation of this administrative rule. District employees who witness, experience, or otherwise learn about a suspected violation should report the matter to their immediate supervisor. Students who witness, experience or otherwise learn about a suspected violation should report the matter to a school administrator. Other authorized users who witness, experience, or otherwise learn about a suspected violation should report the matter to a District administrator.

All suspected violations will be investigated thoroughly. If it is determined that a violation of this administrative rule has occurred, the following disciplinary and/or corrective actions may be taken:

- Review of and possible changes to the level of supervision and the circumstances under which use is allowed
- Limitation, suspension and/or termination of the violator’s use privileges
- For student violators, disciplinary measures consistent with the District’s student discipline code, up to and including expulsion
- For employee violators, disciplinary measures determined to be appropriate based on the seriousness of the violation, up to and including termination
- Report to law enforcement when the violation is believed to constitute a violation of a Federal or State law or regulation and/or Board policy.

I have read this form understand the consequences of misuse:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As parent or legal guardian of the student named above, I give my permission for him/her to access the school network services, including the Internet:

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

\* For more information, see Georgetown County Board of Education Policy IJND-R