

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

August 2010-2011

The Fayette County Board of Education offers access to the Internet throughout the school district with the use of computers. The term “computer” is intended to mean the computer with all its accessories and peripherals used in connection with the computer such as, but not limited to, the servers, backup drives, backup disk, network servers, communications servers, modems, Internet access software, CD ROMS, CD drives, printers, software, stored data, computer hardware, E-mail and all data and programs used on the computers. All use of computers must be in support of education, research, or business applications consistent with the purposes of the Board. This policy is designed to provide guidelines for the use of the Internet and other electronic communications in classrooms, media centers, computer labs, and schools in general. To gain access, each student must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the permission form.

While use of electronic communication and research is primarily instructional in nature to reach an educational goal, some students may find ways to access other materials. Unfortunately, some of the resources contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. Most educators believe the benefits to students from access to the Internet and other electronic communication exceeds the disadvantages. Parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards their children should follow when using these resources. Therefore, Fayette County School system respects each family’s right to decide whether or not to permit their child from using these resources.

User Rights

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior while using the Internet. Additionally, students 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 punishment as defined in the Code of Conduct. 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 believed to be in violation of the guidelines, a system administrator may review communications to maintain system integrity and to insure that students are using the system responsibly.

Safety-Any user who receives threatening or unwelcome communications should bring those 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 of language-No profane, abusive, or impolite language should be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior.

Equal Access-All users should be granted free and equal access to the Internet and other resources. Exploration of the Internet is encouraged relative to the purposes of research and education. No single user should monopolize the workstations connected to the Internet.

Use of Electronic Communication-Students and minors should not use electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Students will not use public email accounts for accessing email on Fayette County School's network or the Internet. The exception for this is for instructional purposes and only if properly supervised.

Illegal Activities-Students should not attempt to gain unauthorized access to Fayette County School's network or Internet connection or to any other computer system through Fayette County School's network or go beyond your authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. Students should not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. Students should not use Fayette County School's network or Internet connection to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of a person, etc.

Respecting Resource Limits-Students should use the system only for educational and career development activities and limited, high quality, self-discovery activities. Students should not download large files unless absolutely necessary. If necessary, students should download the file at a time when the system is not being heavily used and immediately remove the file from the system computer to your personal computer. Students should not post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.

Student Guidelines

1. BE PREPARED to be held accountable for your actions. Exemplary behavior is expected from all users at all times.
2. DO notify an adult immediately if materials that violate the school Code of Conduct are encountered.
3. DO NOT use a computer or the Internet to hurt, harass, attack, or harm other people or their work.
4. DO NOT damage the computer or network in any way.
5. DO NOT degrade the performance of the network through the posting of electronic chain letters or other useless information.
6. 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.

7. DO NOT install software or download unauthorized files, games, programs, or other electronic media.
8. DO NOT violate copyright laws.
9. DO NOT view, send, or display obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language, messages, or pictures.
10. DO NOT share your password with another person.
11. DO NOT reveal the personal address or phone number or any other personal information of yourself or anyone else.
12. DO NOT access other student's work, folders, or files.
13. DO NOT re-post non-academic personal communications without the original author's prior consent.

Security

Fayette County Board of Education strives to help our students, administration, faculty, and staff to protect their privacy while using the Internet and other types of electronic communications. The Internet contains an enormous amount of information. It may also contain personal details about you that you don't want everyone to know. For example, your real name (lots of people on the Internet do not use their real names), street address, phone number, or e-mail address. When you go online, sites you visit may be gathering information about you without your knowledge.

The importance of security for all personally identifiable information associated with our faculty, staff, and students is of utmost importance to Fayette County Board of Education. The Board exercises great care in providing secure transmission of your information from your computer to our servers. Unfortunately, no data transmission over the Internet can be guaranteed to be 100% secure. As a result, while the Board strives to protect the information of our employees and students, Fayette County Schools and the Board of Education can not ensure or warrant the security of any information you transmit to us or from online products or services. Employees and students do so at their own risk. Once any of our schools receive your transmission, we make our best effort to ensure its security on our system.

Technology Protection Measure

Fayette County provides a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet Access. This device must protect against access by adults and protect students and minors against visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, and/or with respect to use of computers with Internet access by students and minors, harmful to students and minors. Depictions that are deemed obscene, pornographic, and harmful to students and minors shall be defined by Fayette County's Board of Education when applicable. The technology protection measure may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Currently, Fayette County School District has a CIPA compliant content filtering solution in place. Fayette County Board of Education or representative is responsible for reviewing and maintaining this

technology protection measure. At any time the protection measure may be replaced if it is not functioning properly or is determined not to protect our students and minors in a sufficient manner.

Please note that if you violate the terms of this policy, you may lose privileges or receive punishment as defined in the Student Code of Conduct of Fayette County or receive a Discipline Notification Form. It is your responsibility to read and ask questions about this policy.

Teachers of the Fayette County School District will plan an in-class discussion of this Acceptable Use Policy after students have had a chance to become familiar with it.