

INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Philadelphia Public School District is pleased to offer to its students, faculty, and staff access to the Internet in accordance with the terms and conditions of this policy.

Overview: Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the users who must adhere to strict guidelines. To this end, Congress has passed and the President has signed into law, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Child Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

CIPA requires that schools receiving certain federal funds, including E-Rate discounts and Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, put into place Internet Safety policies. These Internet safety policies must include a technology protection measure for blocking access to "visual depictions" of obscene material, child pornography, and material that is "harmful to minors" when minors are accessing the computer.

CIPA also requires that the Internet safety policy include monitoring of all online activities of minors. Additionally, the policy must address all of the following: a) access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web, b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications, c) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking", and other unlawful activities by minors online, d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and e) measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Philadelphia Public Schools Internet policy will address the following:

The education of minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms.

Cyber-bullying and Response

Recognizing that no filtering solution can be 100% effective, it is understood that all technology protection measures do not and will not work perfectly. In complying with CIPA, schools are expected to engage in a "good faith effort" to abide by the requirements of CIPA. CIPA does not create a private right to action, meaning that the discovery of objectionable material on a computer cannot result in a lawsuit complaining that a school violated CIPA.

The primary goal of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) Rule is to give parents control over what information is collected from their children online and how such information may be used. The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, requires commercial website operators to get parental consent before collecting any personal information from kids under 13.

COPPA allows teachers to act on behalf of a parent during school activities online, but does not require them to do so. That is, the law does not require teachers to make decisions about the collection of their students' personal information.

These guidelines are provided so that you, the user and/or parent of the user are aware of the responsibilities you are about to assume. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Philadelphia Public School District user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied.

The signature(s) on the Internet Access Agreement is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance. This document must be signed annually by all parties who use, or have access to, the Philadelphia Public School District computer network.

All faculty and staff must sign and return the Internet Access Agreement located in the handbook APPENDIX.

INTERNET TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE

Personal Safety:

1. User will not disclose, use, disseminate or divulge personal and/or private information about himself/herself, minors or any others including personal identification such as, but not limited to, credit card information, social security numbers, telephone numbers, addresses, etc.
2. User will immediately report to Philadelphia Public School District authorities any attempt by other Internet users to engage in inappropriate conversations or personal conduct.

Illegal Activity:

1. User agrees not to access, transmit or retransmit any material(s) in furtherance of any illegal act or conspiracy to commit any illegal act in violation of United States, Mississippi, local government, or Philadelphia Public School District laws, policies or regulations.
2. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit: copyrighted materials (including plagiarism), threatening, harassing, or obscene material, pornographic material, or material protected by trade secret, and/or any other material that is inappropriate to minors.
3. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit any material that promotes violence or the destruction of persons or property by devices including, but not limited to, the use of firearms, explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs, incendiary devices, or other similar materials.
4. User shall not use the network for any illegal activity including, but not limited to, unauthorized access including hacking.
5. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit language that may be considered offensive, defamatory, or abusive, including but not limited to text, videos, sounds, language, or websites (example: adult material, fighting websites, jokes, email, etc.).
6. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit information that could cause danger or disruption or engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
7. User shall not access, transmit or retransmit information that harasses another person or causes distress to another person.
8. User shall not bypass the district's computer filtering devices by any means (example: proxy, hacked browser, secure site, etc.).

System Resource Limits:

1. User shall only use the Philadelphia Public School District system for educational and career development activities and limited, high quality self-discovery activities as approved by Philadelphia Public School District faculty for a limited amount of time per week.
2. User agrees not to download or install any programs, files or software without the permission of the teacher to include but not limited to internet based games, "chat" programs or "browser helper objects" and software not purchased by or expressly licensed to the Philadelphia Public School District.
3. User agrees not to download large files unless it is absolutely necessary. If absolutely necessary to download large files, user agrees to download the file at the time when the system is not being heavily used.
4. User agrees not to post chain letters, messages or engage in "spamming" (that is, sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people).
5. User agrees to immediately notify his/her teacher or other school administrator should user access inappropriate information. This will assist protecting user against a claim of intentional violation of this policy.
6. Personal equipment, including but not limited to laptops, desktops, printers, cameras, or cell phones will not be granted access to the Philadelphia Public School District's network or support systems.

User Rights:

1. The Internet is considered a limited forum, similar to a school newspaper, and therefore Philadelphia Public School District may restrict user's right to free speech for valid educational reasons. Philadelphia Public School District will not restrict user's right to free speech on the basis of disagreement with the opinions expressed by user.
2. User shall have the responsibility to use computer resources for academic purposes only. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet. The only exception will be for academic research by a staff member with the approval of school administration.
3. User should not expect files stored on school-based computer to remain private. Authorized staff will periodically inspect folders and logs of network usage and will be kept at all times. Routine review and maintenance of the system may indicate that user has violated this policy, school codes, municipal law, state law or federal law. Parents of minor users shall have the right to inspect the contents of user's files.
4. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person or use another person's password. Your data is only as secure as your password. It is your responsibility to keep it safe. Never make your password easily accessible to others. You will be required to change your password during each school year for reasons of security.
5. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable and/or illegal use may result in denial, revocation, suspension, and/or cancellation of the user's privileges, as well as disciplinary action imposed by school officials.

6. Use of the Philadelphia Public School District system for management of businesses, websites not directly relating to the education of students in the Philadelphia Public School District, or for personal affairs is strictly prohibited.
7. Philadelphia Public School District will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.
8. Philadelphia Public School District will provide each staff member access to a district email account. All other email providers will be prohibited (example: yahoo.com, gmail.com, bellsouth.net, etc.). All Philadelphia Public School District email is the sole property of the district and will be archived by the district.

Individual schools within the district may create additional guidelines and procedures consistent with this policy. Such guidelines and procedures will be appropriate for the electronic information resources being used and the students served at the school.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF INTERNET USE

There will be consequences for any user who fails to follow the Philadelphia Public School District's guidelines and policies. The consequences may include paying for damages, denial of access to technology, suspension, termination, or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law.

At the discretion of the Philadelphia Public School District, law enforcement authorities may be involved and any violations of state and/or federal law may result in criminal or civil prosecution. When the user is using the Philadelphia Public School District system, it may seem as though these policies could be easily broken and that the user would not get caught. This is not true. Electronic footprints are left behind on a machine each time it is used, and the potential for apprehension always exists.