

## Parent/Student Internet Access Agreement for Students

Please read the following carefully before signing this document. This is a legally binding document.

Due to the nature of the Internet, it is neither practical nor possible for the Board of Education to enforce compliance with user rules at all times. Accordingly, parents and students must recognize that students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet. Therefore, parents must participate in the decision whether to allow their children access to the Internet and must communicate their own expectations to their children regarding its use. Available precautions will be taken to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information, but we believe the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network for outweighs the possibility that users may procure materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of the school system.

As a parent/guardian of this student, I have read the **Internet Appropriate Use** regulations and this **Internet Access Agreement that is located at <http://www.jefferson.k12.ga.us/Page/1344>** :

- I understand that Internet access is designed for educational purposes and that the school will attempt to discourage access to objectionable materials and communications that are intended to exploit, harass or abuse students. The Jefferson County School System uses a firewall on the network to prevent access to questionable material. However, I recognize it is impossible for the Jefferson County School System to restrict access to all objectionable material, and I will not hold the school responsible for materials acquired or contact made on the network.
- I understand that a variety of inappropriate and offensive materials are available over the Internet and that it may be possible for my child to access these materials if he/she chooses to behave irresponsibly. I also understand that it is possible for undesirable or ill-intended individuals to communicate with my child over the Internet, that there is no practical means for the school to prevent this from happening, and that my child must take responsibility to avoid such communications if they are initiated. While I authorize the staff to monitor any communications to or from my child on the Internet, I recognize that it is not possible for the school to monitor all such communications. I have determined that the benefits of my child having access to the Internet outweigh potential risks.
- I understand that the Board makes no assurances of any kind, whether expressed or implied, regarding any Internet services provided. The Jefferson County School System or individual schools in the system will not be responsible for any damages the student/user suffers. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the student's own risk. The school system specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information or software obtained through its services.
- I understand that any conduct by the below-named student that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate, and such behavior may result in the termination of Internet access and possible disciplinary action.
- I understand that the school system maintains a website at <http://www.jefferson.k12.ga.us/>, and would like to recognize students on the website, particularly for outstanding accomplishments. Many times the student's picture will be on the website, but sometimes it is desirable to include the name. At no time will the student's age, address, or telephone number be listed.
- I agree to compensate the school for any expenses or costs it incurs as a result of my child's violation of the **Internet Appropriate Use** regulations.
- I understand and will abide by the attached **Internet Appropriate Use** regulations.

### STUDENT:

Student's Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT/GUARDIAN:

As the parent/guardian of the above named student, I request that he/she be allowed to access the Internet for educational purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Jefferson County School System has permission to photograph and video the above named child and incorporate his/her picture on the Jefferson County website or other publications. I understand that he/she will only be identified by first and last name, and no age, address, or telephone number will be provided.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Use of Electronic Media: Internet Use**

The Jefferson County Board of Education makes available to its students and faculty a wide variety of media resources, including electronic media such as the Internet. Electronic information research skills are fundamental to the preparation of citizens and future employees during an Age of Information. The Board expects that the staff will blend thoughtful use of such information throughout the curriculum and provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources. All students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. All computers, software, network connections, Internet connections, and e-mail systems provided to the staff and students are the property of the Board of Education and are to be used solely for the purpose of supporting the educational mission of the school system and conducting the business of the school system.

Both students and employees are expected to follow legal, ethical and school rules regarding use of the Internet and other electronic media. Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Students who fail to abide by such rules will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include revocation of use privileges, suspension or other appropriate action. Employees violating the rules also will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Teachers will employ the same supervision and care in determining appropriate use of the Internet as is used with other instructional materials. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee to develop guidelines for use of the Internet.

These guidelines should the following:

- language that addresses the importance of complying with Internet “etiquette,”
  - privacy
  - appropriate language use;
- appropriate educational uses of the Internet
- Required parental permission before using the Internet to include
  - parental notification regarding Internet use
    - a description of the Internet and the wide variety of materials that students may encounter
    - possible disciplinary consequences for violating the guidelines or any other school rules established for Internet use.

Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefits to students from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, Jefferson County Schools support and respect each family’s right to decide whether or not to apply for access privileges.

**Internet Safety**

It shall be the policy of the Jefferson County Board of Education that the school district shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

Section 54.520. Children’s Internet Protection Act certifications required from recipients of discounts under the federal universal service support mechanism for schools and libraries.

\* \* \* \* \*

54.520(a)(1). School. For the purposes of the certification requirements of this rule, school means school, school board, school district, local education agency or other authority responsible for administration of a school.

\* \* \* \* \*

54.520(a)(4). Statutory definitions.

(i) The term “minor” means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.

(ii) The term “obscene” has the meaning given such term in 18 U.S.C. § 1460.

(iii) The term “child pornography” has the meaning given such term in 18 U.S.C. § 2256.

(iv) The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that--

(A) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

(B) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

(C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

(v) The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in 18 U.S.C. § 2246.

(vi) The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to the material covered by a certification under subparagraph (c) of this section.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c)(1)(i). The Internet safety policy adopted and enforced pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 254(h) must include a technology protection measure that protects against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to use of the computers by minors, harmful to minors. The school must enforce the operation of the technology protection measure during use of its computers with Internet access, although an administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the certifying authority under subparagraph (a)(1) may disable the technology protection measure concerned, during use by an adult, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose. This Internet safety policy must also include monitoring the online activities of minors and must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

## **Internet Appropriate Use**

The Jefferson County School System will enforce the following administrative procedures. Although some specific examples of prohibited uses are stated, they are intended as illustrations only and do not purport to be an all inclusive list of inappropriate behaviors. Failure to comply with these administrative procedures shall be deemed grounds for revocation of privileges, potential disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action.

## **Terms and Conditions**

1. Acceptable Use: Access to the school’s Internet is provided for educational purposes and research consistent with the school system’s educational mission and goals. Appropriate use should always be legal and ethical. Parents and students shall be required to sign the **Parent/Student Internet Access Agreement** form, affirming that they have read and understand the administrative procedure on **Internet Appropriate Use** and understand the consequences for the violation of said administrative procedure before students may access the Internet. All employees shall also be required to sign the **Employee Internet Access Agreement Form**, affirming that they have read and understand the administrative procedure on **Internet Appropriate Use** and understand the consequences for the violation of said administrative procedure.

2. Privileges: The use of the school system’s Internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in the cancellation of those privileges. The Superintendent, or designee(s) shall make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated those procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time.

3. Unacceptable Use: The user is responsible for all his/her actions and activities involving the network. Examples of prohibited conduct include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Accessing materials or communications and/or sending or posting materials or communications that are: damaging to another's reputation, abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, contrary to the school's policy on harassment, harassing, or illegal;
- b. Using the computers to libel, slander, threaten, intimidate, offend, bother, or harass any other person, including conveying obscene language, pictures, or other materials;
- c. Copying or downloading copyrighted material on any system connected to the school system's, using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of U.S. and State regulation;
- d. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain;
- e. Wastefully using resources;
- f. Utilizing any software having the purpose of damaging the school's system or other user's system, or that has the purpose of circumventing any network, computer, software or school security protocols;
- g. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities;
- h. Invading the privacy of individuals;
- i. Using another user's account or password;
- j. Posting material authorized or created by another without his/her consent;
- k. Posting anonymous messages;
- l. Attempting to read, delete, copy or modify the electronic mail of other system users and deliberately interfering with the ability of other system users to send/receive electronic mail;
- m. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked; and
- n. Using the network in a fashion inconsistent with direction from teachers and other staff and generally accepted network etiquette.

4. Staff Supervision: Staff members should become familiar with this procedure and should enforce the rules concerning appropriate use when their duties include supervision using the Internet. When in the course of their duties staff members become aware of student violation of this policy, they should correct the student and address the matter in accordance with this procedure and the Board of Education's general disciplinary policies and procedures. Teachers are not to be held accountable for what the student may access through the Internet beyond instructional directives.

5. Compensation: The student and/or his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall be responsible for compensating the school system for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the school system relating to or arising out of any student violation of these procedures.

6. Security: Network security is a high priority. If anyone identifies or perceives a security problem or a breach of these responsibilities on the Internet, the user must immediately notify the principal, his/her designee OR other appropriate staff. The problem should not be demonstrated to other users. Another individual's account should not be used. Passwords are not to be revealed to anyone. Attempts to log in as a system administrator will result in immediate cancellation of use privileges. Students are not to reveal their personal home address or phone number.

7. Vandalism: Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy the school's equipment or materials, data, the Internet network, or agency. This includes but is not limited to the uploading or creation of computer viruses. No software of any kind may be brought from a student's or employee's home for use in any school computer.

8. Charges: The Board of Education assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees including but not limited to long distance charges, per minute surcharges and/or equipment or line costs.

9. Network Etiquette: The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others. Use appropriate language. Do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- b. Do not reveal the personal addresses or telephone numbers of students.
- c. Recognize that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all email messages. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities. Be careful about what you say to others. E-mail is easily forwarded.

- d. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users. For example, disruptive uses include chain letters, jokes, and other non-educational traffic.
- e. Consider all communications and information accessible via the network to be private property.

10. Bring your own Technology/Device: Students/Teachers are encouraged to bring mobile devices to school. These mobile devices are the property of the students/teachers. The Board of Education is not responsible for theft, breakage, or loss. The students/teachers will be filtered on these mobile devices when they are on the school network via wired or wireless connections.

11. Student Email accounts: Students in grades K-12 will have assigned email accounts through Google Apps for Education. These email accounts will be used for instructional purposes and for teachers to communicate with students.

12. The Jefferson County School District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response, interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and chat rooms. Training on online safety issues and materials, implementation will be made available for administration, staff and parents.

**Jefferson County Schools**

**Date Adopted: 12/13/2016**