

Appropriate Use of Technology Resources for Students

The purpose of this document is to inform parents/guardians and students of the rules governing the use of District and technology resources while on or near school property, in school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities on or off campus, as well as the use of District technology resources via off-campus remote access.

Please read the following carefully before signing your registration packet. North East Independent School District (NEISD) reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions of this document at any time. The latest version of this document is available from the NEISD web site at <http://www.NEISD.net/aup/index.html>.

Introduction

NEISD is pleased to offer students access to District computers, communications systems¹, the Internet and an array of technology resources to promote educational excellence. Technology can enhance teaching, expand a child's access to educational materials, prepare students with workforce- and college-ready skills and lead to personal growth. Like any tool, technology should be presented with clear guidelines, expectations and supervision to protect students. A partnership between parents/guardians, teachers and administrators is needed to teach our students to be responsible digital consumers.

All students are responsible for their use of technology, whether personal or District-provided, and expected to act in an appropriate manner consistent with school, District, and legal guidelines. This applies to District and personal technology resources on or near school property, in school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities on or off campus, as well as using District technology resources via off-campus remote access.

Using the Internet and Communications Systems¹

District technology resources are provided to students to conduct research, complete assignments, and communicate with others to complement their educational experience. Just as students are responsible for good behavior in a classroom or a school hallway, they must also be responsible when using school computer networks or personal technologies. Access is a privilege and not a right; as such, general rules of appropriate behavior apply. Access to these services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Students must comply with District standards and honor this agreement to be permitted the use of technology.

All digital storage is District property, and as such, network administrators will review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that students are using technology responsibly. Students should not expect that files stored on District servers or District-provided online repositories will be private.

The educational value of integrating technology integration into the curriculum is substantial. Access to the Internet will enable students to use extensive online libraries and databases. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, profane, sexually oriented or potentially offensive to some people. The District believes that the benefits of student access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed any disadvantages. **NEISD does not condone or permit the use of any objectionable material and uses content filtering software to protect students.** Parents/Guardians must be aware that content filtering tools are not completely fail-safe, and while at school, direct supervision by school personnel of

each student using a computer is desired but not always possible. While the District's intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways around the District's filtering software to access inappropriate materials as well.

Students are expected to use technology resources in a manner consistent with the following rules **and will be held responsible for their intentional misuse**. Ultimately, parents/guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their students should follow when using technology. If students accidentally access inappropriate material it is expected that they will back out of that information at once and immediately notify the supervising adult.

Proper and Acceptable Use of All Technology Resources

All District technology resources, including but not limited to District computers, communications systems¹ and the Internet, must be used in support of education and academic research and must be used in a manner consistent with the educational mission and objectives of NEISD.

Activities that are permitted and encouraged include:

- school work;
- original creation and presentation of academic work;
- research on topics being studied in school;
- research for opportunities outside of school related to community service, employment or further education; and-
- reporting inappropriate content or harassment to a trusted adult.

Activities that are not permitted when using District or personal technologies include, but are not limited to:

- use of District or personal technology during instances of standardized testing, End of Course and/or final examinations unless directed otherwise by a teacher;
- plagiarism or representing the work of others as one's own;
- using obscene language; harassing, insulting, ostracizing, or intimidating others, including faculty, students or staff;
- representing Copyright ©, Registered ®, and/or Trademark ™ materials as one's own work;
- searching, viewing, communicating, publishing, downloading, storing, or retrieving materials that are not related to school, work, community service, employment, or further education (thus, searching inappropriate materials is not permitted);
- damaging or modifying computers or networks;
- intentional or neglectful transmission of viruses or other destructive computer files; hacking into District or external computers, or; intentionally bypassing District filters;
- use of USB, bootable CDs, or other devices to alter the function of a computer or a network;
- online sharing of any student's or staff member's name, home address, phone number or other personal information
- non-educational uses such as games, role-playing multi-user environments, gambling, junk mail, chain mail, jokes or raffles;
- participating in online chat rooms or using instant messaging/text messaging, unless specifically assigned by a teacher;
- use of District resources for commercial purposes, personal financial gain, or fraud;
- any activity that violates a school rule or a local, state, or federal law.

Students are expected to immediately report harassment, threats, hate-speech and inappropriate content to a teacher or administrator. If students have any questions about whether a specific activity is permitted, they should ask a teacher or administrator.

Privacy and Security

Students must use District technologies responsibly and in a secure manner. They must not share their logins, passwords, or access with others. Students are expected to log off/sign off of

all online sites, software programs and District-provided computers in order to protect the integrity of their various online credentials

Online Assessments

Student assessments may be conducted using technologies such as the Internet or audience response systems. Normally, students will use these technologies as a part of their instructional day. Privacy and security, as defined above, along with confidentiality of assessment responses, are expected.

Vandalism

Any intentional act by students that damages District technology hardware, software, operating systems, or data will be considered vandalism and will be subject to all applicable school rules and disciplinary procedures. Any intentional act that requires a person's time to repair, replace, or perform corrective work on District technologies or data is also considered vandalism.

Consequences of Misuse

Misuse of personal or District technology resources while on or near school property, in school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities on or off campus, as well as the use of District technology resources via off-campus remote access shall be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or his designee. These consequences may include, but are not limited to, suspension, removal to alternate education placement, and/or expulsion. In addition, the student's use of District technologies may be suspended or restricted. A school may temporarily hold, pending parental/guardian or same-day pick up, personal technology resources that are used inappropriately. Individual schools may choose to have additional rules and regulations pertaining to the use of personal, networked, and communications resources in their respective buildings. Furthermore, intentional unauthorized access and/or damage to networks, servers, user accounts, passwords, or other District resources may be punishable under local, state, or Federal law.

This document shall be used in conjunction with NEISD Board of Trustees policies FNCE (Student Rights and Responsibilities) and the Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board of Trustees and found in the Student/Parent handbook

Reliability and Limitation of Liability

NEISD makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, for the technology resources it provides to students. NEISD will not be responsible for any damages suffered by students, including those arising from non-deliveries, erroneous deliveries, service interruptions, unauthorized use, loss of data, and exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material or people. Use of any information obtained via the Internet or communications technologies is at the student's own risk. NEISD specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet. Students and their parents/guardians will indemnify and hold NEISD harmless from any losses sustained as the result of intentional or neglectful misuse of the District's technology resources by the student.

¹(Communication systems include e-mail, web sites, cell phones, pagers, text messaging, instant messaging, blogging, podcasting, listservs, and/or other emerging technologies).