

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

600 Series

Internet/Technology Acceptable Use Policy Code No. 605.6R

Internet access is available to the students and staff of the Ed-Co School District. This technology is an important part of both the information and communication resources of our world. To provide our students with the very best educational experiences possible, the Ed-Co School District is pleased to offer this resource to its students. Such a privilege requires responsible behavior on the part of students. To ensure the smooth operation of the school information network, and to protect the best interests of Ed-Co students, the following guidelines have been developed to establish efficient, equitable, ethical, and legal usage. Parents may deny unsupervised access to these resources by completing a form available from the high school office.

Acceptable Use

Ed-Co's Internet resources will be used to support Ed-Co educational objectives, and not for personal use by students. Transmissions which violate any district, state, or US regulations are prohibited. Use of these resources for commercial activities, product advertisement, or political lobbying is prohibited. Specifically prohibited are Internet activities that do not directly support the curriculum including, but not limited to, personal e-mail, games, and chat rooms, downloading software, downloading media such as movies and music, and accessing online radio or TV stations. The use of interactive software through which live communication can be sent or received is prohibited without prior specific approval by a school authority. Such software includes instant messenger software, chatroom software, or any other software by which two or more persons can communicate directly via the Internet.

The use of Ed-Co's Internet resources is a privilege. Abuse of that privilege will result in a suspension of its use.

Students are expected to observe the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Students will use a polite, non-abusive tone in their communications. "Flaming", or the use of obscenities, swearing, or vulgar language is not acceptable.

Users will not reveal the name, address, personal likeness or phone number of themselves or anyone else while using the Internet, unless permitted by a faculty member.

Illegal activities are forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, threats, harassment, stalking and fraud.

The network should not be used in such a way that would cause disruption of the network by other users.

Students will respect intellectual property of others by crediting sources and respecting copyright laws.

Ed-Co provides no warranties for information accessed on the Internet. The district is also not responsible for damages incurred while using the Internet, including loss of data.

Students are not to tamper with the system's security mechanisms. Attempts to damage or destroy hardware, software, data or the network system will be grounds for serious disciplinary action.

Students are specifically forbidden to load on school computers or the network server any application software from disk, CD-ROM, the Internet, or from any other source. If such application software is needed to support the curriculum, a request to allow its installation will be evaluated by the technology director. Permission to do so may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Students should understand that e-mail, which is available to Ed-Co students only through special arrangement with the technology director, is not private and may be reviewed by others. Information downloads and server storage is subject to review and monitoring.

The Ed-Co School District is not responsible for financial obligations incurred while using the district Internet resources.

The display screen on a computer monitor should not contain anything that is offensive by community standards.

Any student wishing to access information which is blocked by the network filter, or which may be offensive to some members of the community, but which is considered necessary for educational purposes, shall state his/her case in a written proposal. This proposal will be reviewed by the media specialist. Permission to access such sites may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

All Internet activity is monitored by a filtering system designed to restrict access to inappropriate sites as defined by the Ed-Co Technology Committee. Since filtering systems, by nature, are less than 100% effective, some inappropriate sites can still be accessed. A site is not considered appropriate simply because it passes through the filter.

If an inappropriate site is encountered, the student should immediately leave the site and contact a staff person in the area. Failure to report such instances to a staff person can lead to disciplinary action.

Students are reminded that all computer operations can and will be monitored for appropriate use. Students should not allow others to access their accounts. Student account passwords are confidential, and students should take precautions to prevent others from acquiring them. Since access to student accounts is password protected, any inappropriate activity on a student account is the sole responsibility of the student account holder. Passwords can be changed for good cause by contacting the network administrator.

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