

Provo City School District Acceptable Computer System Use Policy

Provo City School District provides Network Services to its students and employees. Network services includes all computer hardware, network and Internet services and associated software.

The Internet is a very effective tool to introduce students to the global nature of information and to share information in a variety of ways. With increased access to computers and people all over the world, there is also increased access to controversial material that may not be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Provo School District reserves the right to:

- monitor and track the use of Network Services,
- suspend or revoke privileges and take appropriate disciplinary action for unacceptable use of the Network Services, and
- implement filtering software on the network to monitor Internet use and access.

The District firmly believes that the valuable information and interaction available on the Internet far outweighs the risks of users obtaining material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the district.

Access to Network Services will be provided to students and staff who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. General school rules for behavior and communications apply as does Provo School District's Character Development statement.

The use of Network Services is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges and possibly other disciplinary or legal actions including criminal prosecution, suspension, expulsion or termination of employment. (Utah Code 76-10-1235 makes it a class A misdemeanor for persons 18 years of age or older; and a class B misdemeanor for persons under 18 who access pornographic or indecent material on school property.)

The following activities are not permitted:

- Sending, displaying, or accessing offensive messages or graphics
- Using obscene or vulgar language
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks (Physical or electronic means)
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another person's password
- Trespassing in others' folders, work or files (School officials may monitor student or staff folders, work or files without permission or notice.)
- Intentionally disrupting the system or wasting resources in any way (such as disk space, printing capacity or electronic intrusion)
- Using the Network Services for illegal or commercial purposes (business transactions)
- Using the equipment in any way that is inconsistent with individual school policies
- Students using the equipment without staff permission and supervision.
- Circumventing Internet or email filters to access non-CIPA compliant content.

(CIPA - Children's Internet Protections Act)

Individual schools may add an attachment to the district's Acceptable Computer System Use Policy which supports the terms of this policy but also meets a school's unique needs.

General Guidelines for Network Services Users

Communications on computer networks are usually public in nature and privacy cannot be guaranteed, even for personal messages. Therefore users should:

- not include personal addresses, pictures of self, phone numbers, location of school, and personal financial information in network communications.

- give notice immediately to a parent, teacher or system administrator if they encounter materials which violate the rules of appropriate use, or if the messages or files sent to them contain threats, sexual references, or if they make them feel uncomfortable.

- never agree to get together with someone they meet "online" without first getting permission from their parent or guardian.

- not divulge their password to another person.