

## INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS & SCHOOLS

The Board encourages the use of computers and computer-related technologies as an integral part of the curriculum in district classrooms to support learning and enhance instruction and considers a computer network to be a valuable tool for education.

The internet, a network of networks, allows people to interact with thousands of networks of computers; offers a diverse, vast, and unique resource for staff, students and other users for communicating, learning and instructing; is an excellent tool for retrieving information, for teaching searching strategies, sharpening research skills, promoting critical thinking and facilitating resource sharing. The skills used in accessing the Internet are one that promote life-long learning.

The Board seeks to enable its members, administration, faculty, staff, students and community partners to be able to use the Internet in ways that foster appropriate instructional activities. Therefore, the Board issues the following standards of acceptable District use of the Internet and directs the Superintendent to issue suitable guidelines for its implementation:

### *Internet Acceptable Use*

Because the Internet provides access to computer systems world-wide, faculty and staff cannot exhaustively monitor the contents of **all** data, or control user access to **all** controversial material. However, access to valuable information far outweighs the possibility that users may find and access inappropriate material.

As in all phases of instruction in the district, it is the responsibility of all adults to make **every effort** to **ensure** the **safety** and **security** of all students. It is the **duty** of all involved in the teaching and learning process to make every reasonable effort to monitor students while they are using the Internet. It is likewise the obligation of those charged with managing the educational environment to make every effort to assure the Rochester educational community that settings in which Internet access are provided are adequately resourced in terms of staff, technology, and instructional guidance. This responsibility should extend to the design of the instructional task, the allocation of faculty and support staff, the level of staff development provided, user familiarity with Internet interfaces and resources, and technical support of the hardware and software. Ultimately, however, it is the **user's** responsibility **not** to access inappropriate material. All district Internet users must employ the Internet in a responsible manner. All use must be consistent with the values and policies of the district in support of education and research.

Parents and guardians of district students need to be aware that Internet access is not censored by the District, and while every effort will be made to focus access on material appropriate to a given curriculum and assignment, and continued oversight of Internet activity will remain a priority of the educational community, users/students may be exposed to controversial and/or offensive material.

The Board, administration, faculty, staff, students and community partners are responsible for being aware of the district's *Internet Acceptable Use Policy*. All Internet users are required to have the district's Internet Use Agreement Form signed by appropriate parties. The Board, administration, faculty, staff, students, parents and guardians and community partners should also be aware that there are certain types of activity or misuse of internet resources which are prohibited by federal and/or state law and which can subject individuals to legal sanctions of a civil and/or criminal nature, including, but not limited to, violations of copyright laws, or accessing or distributing pornographic materials depicting minors. All such proscribed activity or use by any person on District property; or using equipment owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the District, wherever situated, is expressly prohibited by this Policy. Any use or access prohibited by law shall be deemed to be outside the scope of employment for any officer or employee of the District.

The Board of Education recognizes that the federal or state governments may limit or control Internet use, particularly by minors, through statutes or regulations which may include requirements that computer owners deploy filtering mechanisms on machines accessible to minors. It is the policy and intent of the Board of Education to comply with such federal or state statutes or regulations as they may be adopted or amended from time to time. The Board understands, however, that no filtering mechanisms are infallible or insurmountable, and expressly disclaims any warranty or representation to students, parents and guardians, employees or the general public that students can or will be completely insulated from access to objectionable sites. Parental consent, as discussed elsewhere in this policy remains the prerequisite to access by minors to Internet sites through the use of School District computers wherever situated, or use of any computer or computer-assisted technology while on District property. The Superintendent is authorized and directed to promulgate regulations designed to meet such filtering or other requirements of statutes or regulations imposed by any agency of the United States government or the government of the State of New York, and to amend such regulations as required from time to time to maintain compliance with state or federal law.

Note: Revises Internet Acceptable Use Policy (August 20, 1998)

References: Title III, Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, 20 USC §§ 6301-8962b  
Children's Internet Protection Act, 20 USC § 7001; 47 USC § 254  
Federal Communications Commission Regulations, 47 CFR § 54.520

ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT FORM  
(Rochester City School District Policy # 4526)

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All Rochester City School District Internet users are required to complete and sign an Internet Use Agreement Form, and to abide by its terms and conditions and those in District Policy 4526. The District does not authorize any use or access to the Internet not conducted strictly in compliance with its policy.

Term of Agreement: Once signed by a User, or in the case of a student under the age of eighteen (18) signed by a parent or guardian, this form will remain in effect as long as the user is assigned to the same school or building, or until the User (or for student under 18, the parent or guardian) revokes the agreement by giving notice, in writing, to the Principal of the school, or Department Head in any District building other than a school. Prior versions of this Consent remain valid.

**I. User's Agreement.**

I have read and understand the District's Internet Acceptable Use Policy and will abide by its terms and conditions. I further understand that any violation of the rules is unethical, and that any use of the Internet which violates federal or state laws may constitute a punishable criminal or civil offense. Should I commit any violation of policy or of law, my access privilege may be revoked and disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

USER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL OR BUILDING OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Parent/Guardian Consent (For Student under Eighteen)**

As Parent/Guardian of the student named above, I have read and understand the terms and conditions for Internet access, and give my child permission to participate. I understand and agree that my child and I may be responsible for any violations of federal or state law, and that the District does not warrant or represent that the student can or will be completely protected from access to Internet sites I may find objectionable. In consideration of the privilege of using the District's network and having access to the public networks available through the Internet, I release the District, its officers, employees and operators, and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature whatsoever arising from my, or my child's use, access, or inability to use the system, including without limitation the types of damages identified in the District's policy and regulations. I understand that this consent will remain in force unless and until I give written notice of revocation to the School, or until my child registers in a different school.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my permission to issue Internet access for my child, and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give my permission for my child to access the Internet through the District's network.

Parent/Guardian (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_

(Print Name): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_