

Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy

The Huber Heights City School District Board of Education is pleased to make available to students access to interconnected computer systems within the district and to the Internet, the worldwide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities.

In order for the district to be able to continue to make its computer network and Internet access available, all students must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access. Students must understand that one student's misuse of the network and Internet access may jeopardize the ability of all students to enjoy such access. While the district's teachers and other staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise student use of network and Internet access, they must have student cooperation in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access.

If any user violates this Policy, the student's access will be denied, if not already provided, or withdrawn, and he/she may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

I. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

By using the Internet and computers at school, you are agreeing not only to follow the rules of this policy, but you are agreeing to report any misuse of the network to the person designated by your school for such reporting. Misuse means any violations of this policy or any other use that is not included in the Policy but has the effect of harming another or his/her property.

II. ACCEPTABLE USES

A. Educational Purposes Only.

Huber Heights City Schools is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet for only educational purposes. If you have any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is educational, you may consult with the person(s) designated by the school to help you decide if a use is appropriate.

B. Unacceptable Uses of Network.

Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of this policy are the following:

1. Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. Don't transmit offensive or harassing messages; offer for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by the Huber Heights City School District student discipline policies; view, transmit, or download pornographic materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law; intrude into the networks or computers of others; and download or transmit confidential, trade secret information or copyrighted materials. Even if materials on the networks are not marked with the copyright symbol, you should assume that all materials are protected unless there is explicit permission on the materials to use them.

2. Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property. For example, don't engage in defamation (harming another's reputation by lies); employ another's password or some other user identifier that misleads message recipients into believing that someone other than you is communicating or otherwise using his/her access to the network or the Internet; upload a worm, virus, "Trojan house," "time bomb," or other harmful form of programming or vandalism; participate in "hacking" activities or any form of unauthorized access to other computers, networks, or information systems.
3. Uses that jeopardize the security of student access and of the computer network or other networks on the Internet. For example, don't disclose or share your password with others; don't impersonate another user.
4. Uses that are commercial transactions. Students and other users may not sell or buy anything over the Internet. You should not give others private information about you or others, including credit card numbers and social security numbers.
5. Users shall not read another individual's mail or file; attempt to interfere with another individual's ability to send or receive electronic mail; nor attempt to read, delete, copy, modify, or forge another individual's mail or files.

C. Netiquette

All users must abide by rules of network etiquette, which include the following:

1. Be polite. Use appropriate language. No swearing, vulgar, suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or threatening language.
2. Avoid language and uses which may be offensive to other users. Don't use access to make, distribute, or redistribute jokes, stories, or other material which is based upon slurs or stereotypes relating to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or sexual orientation.

III. INTERNET SAFETY

A. General Warning: Individual Responsibility of Parents and Users.

All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school-aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his/her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from these sites. Parents of minors are the best guides to materials to shun. If a student finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he/she should report such use to the person designated by the school.

B. Personal Safety.

Be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number. Do not use your real last name or any other information which might allow a person to locate you without first obtaining the permission of a supervising teacher. Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you “meet” on the computer network or Internet without your parent’s permission (if you are under 18). Regardless of your age, you should never agree to meet a person with whom you have only communicated on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.

C. “Hacking” and Other Illegal Activities.

It is a violation of this policy to use the school’s computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access. Any use which violates state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance is strictly prohibited.

D. Confidentiality of Student Information.

Personally identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without permission of a parent or guardian or, if the student is 18 or over, the permission of the student himself/herself. Users should never give out private or confidential information about themselves or others on the Internet, particularly credit card numbers and Social Security numbers. A supervising teacher or administrator may authorize the release of directory information, as defined by Ohio law, for internal administrative purposes or approved educational projects and activities.

E. Active Restriction Measures.

The school, either by itself or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students through direct observation and/or technological means to ensure that students are not accessing such depictions or any other material which is inappropriate for minors.

Internet filtering software or other technology-based protection systems may be disabled by a supervising teacher or school administrator, as necessary, for purposes of bona fide research or other educational projects being conducted by students age 17 and older.

The term “harmful to others” is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254[h][7]) as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that

1. taken as a whole and with respect to minors appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. 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;
3. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

IV. PRIVACY

Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for your education. Huber Heights City Schools reserve the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage including electronic mail and other forms of messaging. All such information files shall be and remain the property of Huber Heights City Schools, and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials. Any usage in support of illegal activities may be reported to the proper authorities.

V. FAILURE TO FOLLOW POLICY

The user's use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user who violates this Policy shall, at a minimum, have his/her access to the computer network and Internet terminated, and the district may refuse to reinstate for the remainder of the student's enrollment in Huber Heights City Schools. A user violates this Policy by his/her own action or by failing to report any violations of other users that come to the attention of the user. Further, a user violates this Policy if he/she permits another to use his/her account or password to access the computer network and Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated.

VI. WARRANTIES/INDEMNIFICATION

The Huber Heights City School District makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this Policy. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages, or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user's use of its computer networks or the Internet under this Policy. By signing this Policy, users are taking full responsibility for his/her use, and the user who is 18 or old, or in the case of a user under 18, the parent(s) or guardian(s) are agreeing to indemnify and hold the school, the Huber Heights City School District, the Data Acquisition Site that provides the computer and Internet access opportunity to the district, and all of their administrators, teachers, and staff harmless from any and all loss, costs, claims, or damages resulting from the user's access to its computer network and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through the purchases of goods or services by the user. The user or, if the user is a minor, the user's parent(s) or guardian(s) agree to cooperate with the school in the event of the school's initiating an investigation of a user's use of

his/her access to its computer network and the Internet, whether that use is on a school computer or another computer outside the school district's network.

VII. UPDATES

Users and, if appropriate, the user's parents/guardians may be asked from time to time to provide new or additional registration and account information or to sign a new Policy, for example, to reflect developments in the law or technology. Such information must be provided by the user (or his/her parents or guardians) or such new Policy must be signed if the user wishes to continue to receive service. If some or all of the information changes after you have provided your account information, you must notify the person designated by the school to receive such information.

Adopted by Board: September 13, 2001

Adopted by Board: January 10, 2002

Adopted by Board: August 11, 2005