

Bridge City Independent School District Student Policy for Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks

Student access to the District's electronic communications system is a privilege, not a right. Through this system students are able to communicate with other schools, colleges, organizations, and individuals and have access to hundreds of databases, libraries, and computer services.

With this **educational** opportunity comes responsibility. To insure that users are acting responsibly, the student must realize that administrators and teachers may review student files and messages. Information sent or received on District computers is not private. Teachers will educate users on appropriate online behavior, including social networking sites and cyber bullying awareness and response. It is also the responsibility of each staff member to monitor students' online activity for appropriate behavior. Consequences for inappropriate use include suspension of access to the system and revocation of the computer system account and/or other disciplinary or legal action in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct* and applicable laws.

The Internet is a network of many types of communication and information networks. It is possible to access material that students (or parents of students) might find objectionable. While the District will take reasonable steps to restrict access to such material (including the use of an Internet content filter), it is impossible to guarantee that such access cannot or will not be gained. **It is the student's responsibility to report any accidental access to restricted sites or information** and to follow the guidelines for appropriate use. Failure to do so may result in the consequences outlined above.

BCISD makes no warranties for the access it is providing. The District will not be responsible for damages suffered through loss of data; accuracy, nature, or quality of information stored on District diskettes, hard drives, or servers; accuracy, nature, or quality of information gathered through District-provided Internet access; or unauthorized financial obligations resulting from District-provided access to the Internet.

All users of BCISD computers and networks are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette (netiquette) and adhere to the following guidelines:

- A. Accounts are to be used for identified educational purposes.
- B. Students will be held responsible at all times for the proper use of accounts, and the District may suspend or revoke access if rules are violated.
- C. Inappropriate use includes:
 - 1. Disabling or attempting to disable or circumvent any Internet filtering device.
 - 2. Borrowing someone's account or accessing another individual's materials without permission.
 - 3. Posting personal information (such as addresses and phone numbers).
 - 4. Vandalizing, damaging, or disabling the system by physical force or by introducing any computer code designed to hinder the performance of a computer's memory, file system, or software.
 - 5. Downloading or using copyrighted information without permission from the copyright holder (including installation of unlicensed software).
 - 6. Posting messages or accessing materials that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, cyber bullying or illegal.
 - 7. Wasting school resources through the improper use of the computer system, such as downloading, distributing, or executing files not specifically related to classroom assignments.
 - 8. Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to restricted information or resources.
 - 9. Tampering with equipment except as directed by the person in charge.
 - 10. Removing equipment from the site without written permission from a teacher or administrator.
 - 11. Installing or utilizing unauthorized wireless network technologies while on campus.
 - 12. Adding hardware or peripheral equipment to District equipment.
 - 13. Installing software to District equipment.
 - 14. Copying District software from District equipment to personal equipment.
 - 15. Accessing or posting to social networking sites or chat rooms is prohibited during the school day.

Unacceptable Use Policy of Computers and Networks

Students are prohibited from sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.

