

# Bledsoe County Schools

## Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for Access to Electronic Media

### Application for Account, and Terms and Conditions for Use of the Internet

*Please read the following carefully before signing this document. This is a legally binding document.*

Internet access is available to students and teachers in the Bledsoe County School District. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to safely promote educational excellence in the Bledsoe County Schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

1. Electronic mail communication with people all over the world;
2. Information and news from research institutions;
3. Public domain and software of all types;
4. Discussion groups on a variety of topics; and
5. Access to many university library catalogs, the Library of Congress, CARL and ERIC.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Available precautions will be taken to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information, but the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of this project.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. If a user violates any of these provisions, his/her account will be terminated and future access could be denied. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

#### Internet Terms and Conditions

1. **Acceptable Use** - **The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the school district.** Use of other organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

2. **Privileges** - **The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of these privileges.** (Each student who receives an account will be part of a discussion with a faculty member pertaining to the proper use of the network.) The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the administration may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty and staff may request the Technology Director to deny, revoke or suspend specific user accounts.

3. **Net Etiquette** - You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- A. Avoid offensive or inflammatory speech. Be courteous and polite.
- B. Use appropriate language. Profanity or obscenity are not permitted at any time.
- C. Do not reveal your personal address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
- D. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- E. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the work of others.
- F. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property. Do not quote personal communications without the author's prior consent.

4. **Vandalism** - Vandalism will result in a cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or other networks that are connected to the Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

5. **Security** - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Never share your password or account with anyone. You have full responsibility for the use of your account, and can be held responsible for any policy violations that are traced to your account.

6. **Exception of Terms and Condition** - These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersedes all prior oral and written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee and the United States of America.

I understand and will abide by the above Terms and Conditions for the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action.

**USER'S FULL NAME (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**USER'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement below.)**

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN:** As the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I have read the *Terms and Conditions* for Internet Access. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and the school system and the State Department of Education Office of Technology have taken available precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

**Parent or Guardian's Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_