

CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS INTERNET USE POLICY

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the Cumberland County Schools. The goal of the school system in providing this service is to facilitate resource sharing, innovation, and communication that are consistent with the educational objectives of the State of North Carolina and the Cumberland County Schools. Access includes local, national, and international connections to:

- Libraries, companies agencies and businesses;
- Discussion groups on a variety of subjects;
- Information news services;
- Electronic mail communication:

The Cumberland County School System subscribes to the Library Bill of Rights and actively promotes intellectual freedom. Materials are selected for schools based on the age and educational level of the students as well as the curriculum. Some information on the Internet is not appropriate for students and may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive. Cumberland County School personnel will make every effort to monitor student use of the Internet to insure that materials accessed are for the appropriate age.

However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials. Students will, therefore, be given the privilege to use the Internet along with the responsibility of using it properly by returning a completed Internet Use Agreement including a signature by a parent or guardian to a Media Coordinator at his or her school. Access will be available only during the hours that the school is open.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies as well as regional and state networks. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of those who use it. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources as well as adherence to school and county codes of conduct. If a user violates any of these provisions, his or her privilege to use the Internet will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. In a case where laws or codes of conduct are broken, further consequences may follow. The signature(s) at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate that the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance. Guidelines for use are provided below.

Responsibilities of Staff Members

It is expected that faculty members in Cumberland County Schools will use the Internet for instructional purposes. Faculty members should maintain the highest ethical behavior in using the Internet and should promote that behavior among students. Staff members will:

1. Make every attempt to maintain the curricular focus of Internet use by locating and directing students toward worthwhile sites on the Internet.
2. Supervise student use.
3. Ensure that all student users have signed permission slips from a parent or guardian.
4. Model and provide instruction in the ethical and appropriate use of the Internet in a proper school setting as provided in the following guidelines.
5. Follow the same criteria for Internet resources that are operable for all instructional materials under the Cumberland County Schools Selection Policy.

Responsibilities of Students

Students will:

1. Learn and follow the Guidelines set forth in this Use Policy.
2. Return signed by the student and a parent or guardian stating that they agree that students will adhere to all guidelines and assume responsibility for their own actions.

Guidelines for Internet Use

1. **Acceptable use:** Cumberland County Schools' networks are to be used in a responsible, efficient and legal manner and must be in support of the educational objectives of the Cumberland County Schools and

the N.C. Standard Course of Study. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state regulation is prohibited.

All Rules of the Cumberland County Schools' Student Code of Conduct apply, but are not limited to, the following:

- Violating copyright laws
- Forwarding personal communications without the author's prior consent
- Using threatening or obscene material
- Distributing material for commercial purposes
- Providing political or campaign information

2. **Netiquette Rules:** Users must abide by network etiquette rules. These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite
- Use appropriate language - swearing, using vulgarities, or any other abusive language is inappropriate.
- Never reveal your personal address or telephone number or those of anyone else.
- Never reveal credit or checking account information or social security number across Internet.
- Do not disrupt the use of the network.
- Do not attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment
- Assume that all communications and information accessible via the network are private property

3. **Privileges:** The use of the Internet at a Cumberland County School site is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in limitation or cancellation of user privileges and possible school disciplinary action.

4. **Disclaimer:** The Cumberland County Schools will not be responsible for any damages suffered, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, service interruptions, or inaccurate information.

5. **Security:** Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Attempts to login to the system as any other user or to share a password will result in cancellation of user privileges. If a security problem is identified, notify the system administrator at the school. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Note that electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private; system operators have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities.

6. **Vandalism:** Vandalism will result in cancellation of user privileges and school disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment, programs, and/or data of anyone connected to the server and/or the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, uploading, creating, or transmitting computer viruses.

7. **Privacy:** Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not assume that files stored on servers and hard drives of individual computers would always be private.

INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

User's Full Name (please print):

Home Address:

Home Phone:

I understand and will abide by the Cumberland County Schools Internet Use Policy and understand that any violation of this policy is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

User Signature

Date:

PARENT OR GUARDIAN (If you are under the age of 18 a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.)

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Internet Use Policy for Cumberland County Schools. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes only. I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all inappropriate materials and I will not hold the school system responsible for materials acquired on the network. I accept full responsibility for my child's compliance with the Use Policy and hereby, give my permission for the network.

Parent or Guardian (please print)

Signature:

Date: