

## **INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS**

The Children's Internet Protection Act, known as CIPA became effective on April 20, 2001. According to the FCC, schools and libraries must certify that they are enforcing a policy of Internet Safety that includes measures to block or filter Internet access for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions. They must also have adopted and implemented an Internet Safety Policy that addresses specific issues. They must also have adopted and implemented an Internet Safety Policy that addresses specific issues. In addition, pursuant to the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, the Plainville School District will monitor the online activities of minors and educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms. The district will also educate minors about cyberbullying awareness and potential responses.

Congress enacted the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) in 1998. COPPA required the Federal Trade Commission to issue and enforce regulations concerning children's online privacy. The Commission's original COPPA Rule became effective on April 21, 2000. The Commission issued an amended Rule on December 29, 2012. The amended Rule which took effect on July 1, 2013 spelled out what a Web site operator must include in a privacy policy, when and how to seek verifiable consent from a parent and what responsibilities an operator has to protect children's privacy and safety online. The new rule added four new categories of information to the definition of personal information. Operators are required to obtain parental consent for the following:

- Geolocation information sufficient to identify street name and name of a city or town, regardless of when such data is collected
- Photos or videos containing a child's image or audio files with a child's voice from a child
- Screen or user name is personal information where it functions in the same manner as online contact information
- Persistent identifiers such as information about a child's activities on its website or online service

## **INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

### **Overview**

#### **Plainville Technology Mission Statement**

*We are strongly committed to prepare students to be technologically literate in the skills needed to compete in an information based global community of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To ensure this, we must enhance our curriculum to guarantee that technology becomes an integral and routine part of the learning and teaching experience for everyone in the Plainville education system.*

In keeping with the mission statement, the Plainville School District is providing access to the Internet.

The Internet is an electronic communications network that provides vast, diverse and unique resources. Our goal in providing this service to teachers, staff and ultimately students, is to promote educational excellence in the Plainville Public Schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communications.

Access to Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information and to exchange personal communications with other Internet users around the world. Access to email accounts will be used internally within the Plainville School District. The goal is to provide students and teachers with tools and resources to facilitate greater communication and support higher levels of collaboration. The Plainville Public School District views information gathered from the Internet in the same manner as reference materials identified by the schools. Specifically, the district supports resources that will enhance the learning environment with directed guidance from teacher and staff. Exploration, discovery and manipulation of resources are encouraged. However, with such great potential for education also comes some potential for abuse. 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.

### **TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE**

Parents and students must understand that the information available on the Internet is not always age appropriate or accurate. The Plainville School District has installed a firewall to protect the network from hackers, and has enabled content filtering on all computers to protect against Internet access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography and harmful to minors. While the necessary technology protection measures have been taken to protect students from accessing to inappropriate material on the Internet, it is impossible to guarantee that students will not accidentally or purposely find material that is not consistent with the educational mission, goals and policies of the school. Student access to and use of the Internet will be available only through a student account and as such, will be under teacher direction and monitored. Direct supervision is required. When students are using the Internet, the content filtering software cannot be disabled even with parental or teacher permission and supervision. A system administrator may disable content filtering software only for adults who are using the school computers for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

The most important prerequisite is the user take full responsibility for his/her own actions. The Plainville School District will not be liable for the actions of anyone connecting to the Internet through our Network. All users assume full liability, legal, financial, or otherwise, for their actions. Access, as provided by the Plainville Schools is considered a privilege not a right. With this privilege, comes the responsibility of all users to abide by acceptable use practices.

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 OF USE**

### **PRIVILEGES**

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Each user will be trained in the proper use of the network and the Internet. The school district administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. When inappropriate use of computers and websites is discovered, the school district administrators will promptly bring that inappropriate use to the attention of the student. They may close an account or deny access any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of the Plainville School District may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts because of inappropriate use.

### **PRIVACY**

The system administrators may review files and monitor all computer and Internet activity to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are acting responsibly. Privacy is not guaranteed.

### **ACCEPTABLE USES**

The purpose of the backbone networks making up the Internet is to support research and education in and among the academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. Access must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Plainville School District. Use of other organizations' network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network.

### **UNACCEPTABLE USES**

- Cyberbullying is prohibited through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the Plainville Public Schools.
- Cyberbullying is prohibited through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the Plainville School District if the act or acts in question:
  1. Create a hostile environment at school for the target;
  2. Infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school
- Unauthorized access, including so called “hacking” and illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification on students are prohibited
- Access to inappropriate material on the Internet and World Wide Web is prohibited
- Unauthorized and illegal copying, downloading, or distributing of copyrighted software, materials or games.

- Plagiarizing
- Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade secrets.
- Use of the Internet for commercial activities, product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.

## **NETWORK ETIQUETTE**

You are expected to abide by the accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but not limited to, the following:

- Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not disrupt the use of network
- All communications and information accessible via network should be respected as private property.

## **SAFETY RULES**

When using electronic communication that includes, but not limited to, electronic mail, chat rooms and instant message services, you must take the following precautions:

- Do not reveal any identifying information such as last name, address, phone number, ethnicity, school name or that of students or colleagues. Electronic mail is not private. Messages relating or in support of illegal activities must be reported.
- Do not arrange an in-person meeting with someone you have met online
- Do not post pictures of yourself, your family, or friends online.
- Do not complete an online profile.

You should immediately contact a system administrator or a teacher if:

- You received an electronic mail when you do not know the sender.
- You received an attachment when you do not know the sender.
- You received a rude, threatening or harassing electronic mail and other forms of electronic communication.
- You received electronic mail with subjects that you think sound inappropriate for your age.
- You are asked to participate in any kind of sexual activity.
- You know something does not feel right.

## **LIABILITIES**

The Plainville School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Plainville School District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers including: loss of data resulting from delays, miss-deliveries or service interruptions caused by network disruptions or user errors or omissions. Use of information via Internet is at the users own risk. The Plainville School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

## **SECURITY**

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a system administrator or your teacher. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to logon to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.

## **VANDALISM**

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

### INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT FOR STUDENTS

I understand and will abide by the Plainville School District Internet Acceptable Use Policy. I further understand that any violation of the regulations 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.

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT OR GUARDIAN

I have read the Plainville School Department Internet Acceptable Use Policy. I hereby release the Plainville School Department, its personnel, and any institutions with which it is affiliated, from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child's use of, or inability to use the School Department system, including but not limited to claims that may arise from the authorized use of the system to purchase products and services.

I will instruct my child regarding any restrictions against material that are in addition to the restrictions set forth in the School Department Internet Acceptable Use Policy. I will emphasize to my child the importance of following the rules for personal safety.

I have discussed the Plainville School District's Internet Acceptable Use Policy with my child and give permission for my child to have access to the Internet. I certify that the information contained in this form is correct.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_