

## South San Antonio Independent School District - Student Electronic Communication System Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy

The South San Antonio Independent School District is providing students and District employees access to the District's electronic networked communication system. This system includes Internet access, computer services, videoconferencing, electronic communication, computer and related electronic equipment for educational and administrative purposes. The purpose of this system is to assist in preparing students for success in life and work in the 21st century by providing them with electronic access to a wide range of information and the ability to communicate with people throughout the world. Additionally, the system will be used to increase District intra-communication, enhance productivity, and assist District employees in upgrading their skills through greater exchange of information with their peers. This system will assist the District in sharing information with students, employees, parents, and the local community in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of the South San Antonio Independent School District and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA - Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h) guidelines).

### Electronic Communication System Access:

- The South San Antonio Independent School District electronic communication system has been established for educational purposes, which includes, but are not limited to, promoting and enhancing classroom activities, career development, electronic communication, information sharing, and research activities.
- The South San Antonio Independent School District has the right to place reasonable restrictions on material that is accessed or posted throughout the system to the extent practicable to ensure that only appropriate information and communications occur.
- Technology protection measures such as Internet content filters shall be in place to block or filter access to inappropriate information from Internet web pages or other forms of electronic communications. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking measures shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene, or child pornography, or to any other material deemed harmful to minors.
- To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the San Antonio Independent School electronic communication system when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Education of students and District employees about appropriate online behavior, including cyber bullying awareness, prevention and response, and interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms will occur.
- Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking', and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
- It shall be the responsibility of all members of the South San Antonio Independent School District staff to supervise and monitor student usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act.
- Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and/or Director of Technology or designated representatives. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research, educational or other lawful purposes.
- Use of the Internet is subject to local, state and federal laws, and use of Internet-obtained resources must be in accordance with copyright law, where applicable.
- Access to the District electronic communication system is a privilege — not a right. Parent/guardian permission is required to access and use the system for all students under the age of 18.
- It is presumed that students and District employees will honor this agreement they and/or their parent/guardian have signed. The District is not responsible for the actions of students or employees who violate them beyond the clarification of standards outlined in this policy. In the event a student or employee violates this Policy, the South San Antonio Independent School District may take disciplinary action as it deems appropriate.
- The District reserves the right to monitor all activity on this electronic communication network. Students and District employees will indemnify the District for any damage that is caused by their inappropriate use of the network.

### General Unacceptable Behavior:

While utilizing any portion of the South San Antonio Independent School District electronic network, unacceptable behavior by students and District employees includes, but is not limited to, the following, and users agree that they:

- Will not use the District electronic communication system to access the Internet or Intranet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright law or contract agreements.
- Will not post information that, if acted upon, could cause damage or danger of disruption.
- Will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial, harassing or discriminatory attacks.
- Will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
- Will not use the District equipment, network, or credentials to send or post electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal.
- Will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If a student or District employee is told to stop sending messages, they must stop.
- Will not use criminal speech or threats to individuals or groups regarding instructions on breaking into computer networks, child pornography, drug dealing, purchase of alcohol, gang activities, threats to an individual, etc.
- Will not use speech that is inappropriate in an educational setting or violates District rules, practices or policies.
- Will not abuse network resources such as sending chain letters or "spamming", or forwarding such material.
- Will not waste District resources or cause unnecessary disruptions in service.
- Will not display, access or send offensive messages, pictures, memes, video or audio recordings or other images.
- Will not encrypt communications to avoid security review.
- Will not use the South San Antonio Independent School District electronic network for commercial purposes for personal or financial gain.

- Will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to any District systems, such as student information systems, business systems, other servers, etc. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or information, or to maliciously attempt to harm or destroy District equipment or data, or the equipment or data of any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet is strictly prohibited.
- Will not use any wired or wireless network (including third party internet service providers by broadband cards or such other devices) with unauthorized equipment brought from the outside or home, or any other device not owned by the District. This will be considered an attempt to bypass District filters and is consideration a violation of District policy.
- Will not use District equipment, network, or credentials to threaten employees, or cause a disruption to the educational mission of the District.

#### **E-Mail**

- E-mail for students may be provided through a District-approved and monitored e-mail account for specific educational projects or activities. Students will promptly disclose to a teacher or other school employee any message received that is inappropriate or makes the student feel uncomfortable.
- Students and District employees will not establish or access Web-based e-mail accounts on commercial services through the District network unless such accounts have been authorized for use by the District.
- E-mail transmissions shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by designated staff to ensure appropriate use for educational, administrative or limited personal use. All e-mail is archived following applicable document retention guidelines. Users have no reasonable expectation of privacy in any electronic communication using the District's system.
- The District has the right to deny the privilege of using e-mail to any user who is in violation of any guideline outlined above, and may take other appropriate disciplinary action as it deems appropriate for such a violation.
- Supervisors/Administrators have the right to request, from the Technology Department, with approval by the Superintendent or designee, copies of e-mail sent or received by students or District employee(s) if there is suspicion concerning any use that may violate this or any other District policy.

#### **Web Sites**

- All web pages shall be school-related and will comply with federal copyright laws.
- Material placed on Web pages is expected to meet academic standards of proper spelling, grammar and accuracy of information.
- Material (graphics, text, sound, etc.) that is the ownership of someone other than the student or District employee may not be used on Web sites unless formal permission has been obtained and so noted on the page(s).
- All web pages should have a link back to the home page of the classroom, school or District, as appropriate.

#### **Personal Safety - Students**

- Students will not share personal contact information about themselves or other people. Personal contact information includes full name, address, telephone, school address, or work address.
- High school students will not disclose personal contact information, except to educational institutions for educational purposes, companies or other entities for career development purposes, without specific campus administrative approval.
- Students will not agree to meet with someone they have met on-line on any District property or during any school-sponsored event. Should the District learn that any student has made any agreement to meet someone like this, appropriate administrators shall immediately inform the parent or guardian while also complying with any applicable reporting requirements to Child Protective Services and/or law enforcement.
- Students will promptly disclose to a teacher or other school employee any message received that is inappropriate or makes the student feel uncomfortable.

#### **System Security**

- Students and District employees are responsible for their individual accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use them. Under no conditions should students provide their password to another person.
- Students and District employees will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to any portion of the South San Antonio Independent School District electronic communication network. This includes attempting to login through another person's account or access another person's folders, work, or files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing".
- Students or District employees will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses, or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
- Students or District employees will not attempt to access or bypass Web sites blocked by District policy, including the use of proxy services, software, or Web sites.
- Students or District employees will not use sniffing or remote access technology to monitor the network or other user's activity.

#### **Software and Files**

- Software is available to students and District Employees to be used as an educational or administrative resource. No student or employee may install, upload or download software without permission from the District Technology Department.
- A student or District employee's account may be limited or revoked if they intentionally misuse software on any District-owned equipment.
- Students or District employees will not download or use any peer-to-peer (PTP) software such as Napster, Limewire, Kazza, uTorrent, etc.
- The District reserves the right to restrict the use/listening of Internet radio stations or streaming of internet video to preserve bandwidth.
- Use of computer games by students and District employees is prohibited with the exception of educational use that has been approved by the District.
- Will not download and run software such as weather and news monitoring agents, screen savers or themes that may cause performance issues or unnecessary network activity.
- Files stored on the network servers are subject to access through routine maintenance and monitoring of the South San Antonio Independent School District electronic network, and may lead to discovery that a student or District employee has violated District policy or the law. Students and District employees should not expect that files stored on District servers or computers are private.
- Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data, the network, other network components connected to the network backbone, hardware or software will result in revocation of network privileges.

- Disciplinary measures in compliance with the District's discipline code and policies will be enforced in the event of any violation of provisions in this section.

#### **Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement**

- Students and District employees will not plagiarize works found on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were their own.
- District policies on copyright will govern the use of material accessed and used through the District system.
- Copyrighted material will not be placed on any system without the author's permission. Permission may be specified in the document, on the system and must be obtained directly from the author.

#### **Limitation of Liability**

- The District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the District network will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage suffered, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service.
- The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the network. The District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the network.

**Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy - District Employees** (Consequences to violations of this policy will be handled in accordance with District disciplinary procedures and may result in any or all of the following at the Superintendent or designee's discretion):

- Immediate revocation of access to District electronic communication system with or without prior notice.
- Loss of privilege to use computer/equipment until conference held with Supervisor or designee.
- Termination of employment.
- Civil or criminal liability, including restitution, as appropriate.
- Notification of law enforcement authorities or other applicable agencies, such as the Texas Education Agency and the State Board for Educator Certification at the District's discretion.

**Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy – Students** (Consequences to violations of this policy may result in any of the following at the Administrator's discretion):

Violations of this policy may result in loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Students' violation of this policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated within this policy as well as other appropriate discipline, which may include, but is not limited to:

- Use of District network only under direct supervision
- Suspension of network privileges
- Revocation of network privileges
- Parent notification
- Suspension of computer privileges
- Suspension from school
- Expulsion from school and/or
- Legal action and prosecution by the authorities

The Superintendent or designee shall determine when school expulsion and/or legal action or actions by the authorities are the appropriate course of action.

**This South San Antonio Independent School District Electronic Communication System Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy was addressed at the South San Antonio Independent School District public Board Meeting on July 15, 2009.**

**SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Electronic Communication System Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy  
Student Acceptance Form**

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

I understand that this form must be signed and returned to the school office before my child will be allowed access to South San Antonio Independent School District electronic communication systems, computer networks and/or the Internet. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and read the **South San Antonio Independent School District Electronic Communication System Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy** that governs the proper use of District resources. I certify that I understand this policy, and that I have read and reviewed it with my child and explained its implications. I understand that I will be held accountable for my child's actions and that disciplinary and/or legal action will result from violations of this policy. In consideration for the privilege of my child using the District's electronic communications system, and in consideration for having access to the public networks, I hereby release the District, its operators, and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child's use of, or inability to use, the system, including, without limitation, the type of damage identified in the District's policy and administrative regulations.

Please mark one statement indicating your permission:

\_\_\_\_\_ I **agree to its terms**, and **GIVE** my student permission to use the South San Antonio Independent School District electronic systems.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **DO NOT GIVE** my student permission to use South San Antonio Independent School District electronic systems.

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

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

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT**

Student Signature (Required if student is 18 years old or older):

By signing below, I understand that my computer use is not private and that the South San Antonio Independent School District will monitor my activity on the District electronic communication system. I have read the South San Antonio Independent School District Electronic Communication System Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy and agree to abide by its provisions. I understand that I will be held accountable for my actions and that revocation of system access, suspension, or other disciplinary and/or legal action will result from violations of this policy

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: This form must be completed for each school year.**