

**FAYETTEVILLE (AR) PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COMPUTER/NETWORK USE POLICY**

The Fayetteville Board of Education recognizes the need to effectively use computer technology to further enhance the educational goals of the school district. Security of the various information networks and computer systems must be in place in order to ensure availability and reliability of the computer and network resources. All computing resources should be used in a responsible, effective, ethical, and lawful manner. Users are expected to learn and follow normal standards of polite conduct and responsible behavior in their use of computer resources. The Board further expects all faculty, students, and staff to use the district's computers and networks for the intended purposes of education, research, and administration. Incidental personal use of school computers is permitted as long as such use does not interfere with the employee's job duties and performance, with system operations, or other system users. "Incidental personal use" is defined as use by an individual employee for occasional personal communication.

All users of district equipment must sign the district computer and network use agreement stating they understand this policy and the guidelines contained in the administrative rules and procedures regarding computer use. Network accounts will not be assigned to a user until the use agreement is signed. If there is any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is in accordance with the purpose for which the account was provided, students should consult with parents and teachers and employees should check with immediate supervisors.

Violations of some guidelines set forth in the rules and procedures may constitute a criminal offense. Systems staff and district administrators will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in investigating any violations.

The district cannot be held liable for any losses, including lost revenues, or for any claims or demands against system users by another party. The district cannot be held responsible for any damages due to the loss of output, loss of data, time delay, system performance, software performance, incorrect advice, or any other damages arising from the use of the district's computer facilities or equipment. Faculty, staff, students and/or their parent or guardian will be held liable for any of the above that he/she causes.

It is the responsibility of each user on the network to recognize his/her accountability in having access to vast services, sites, systems and people, and to act according to acceptable behavior standards when using the network. It is necessary that users observe the Acceptable Use Policy of other networks as well as this policy.

Use of the district's computers and access to the network is a privilege that will be revoked for violation of any of the administrative rules and procedures listed below. Users are subject to appropriate disciplinary measures, should these guidelines be violated.

All computers remain under the control, custody, and supervision of the district through management and oversight by the district Technology Department. Under normal circumstances, the district will not monitor or inspect email or web transaction logs as standard operating procedure. However, if there are legal or disciplinary issues that require the district to monitor, inspect, copy, or review files maintained on district computers or networks, the district reserves the right to do so. All such information shall be and remain the property of the district

and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials. Email is subject to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF COMPUTER/NETWORK RESOURCES

### I. INTERNET SAFETY

#### A) **General Warning: Individual Responsibility of Parents and Users.**

All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for children and minors. Even though filters are in place (see E, below), “Active Restriction Measures”), they are an imperfect means of blocking access to inappropriate material. If a user unintentionally visits an offensive or harmful site, he or she should bring this to the attention of the supervising teacher who should then report it to the district system administrator. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from inappropriate sites. Parents of minors are the best guide for materials to shun. If a user finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should bring this to the attention of their teacher or supervisor.

#### B) **Personal Safety for students.**

In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number. Do not use your real last name or any other information that might allow a person to locate you without first obtaining the permission of a supervising teacher. Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you “meet” on the computer network or Internet without your parent’s permission (if you are under 18).

#### C) **Confidentiality of Student Information and Personal Information.**

Personally identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without the permission of a parent or guardian or, if the student is 18 or over, the permission of the student himself/herself. See the exception regarding “directory data” here: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/mndirectoryinfo.html>. Users should never give out private or confidential information about themselves or others on the Internet, particularly credit card numbers and Social Security numbers.

#### D) **“Hacking”, “Spamming”, and Other Illegal Activities**

It is a violation of Policy 4202 to use the districts computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access. Any use which violates state or federal law relating to trespass, copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance, is strictly prohibited.

#### E) **Active Restriction Measures**

The School, either by itself or in combination with the State of Arkansas Department of Information Systems (DIS) providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing materials/sites that (1) are obscene, (2) contain child pornography, or (3) could be harmful to minors. The School will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation, to ensure that students are not

accessing such depictions or any other material that is inappropriate for minors. Monitoring through technical means will only be used in special circumstances if it is necessary to track documented violations (see Expectation of Privacy, below). Internet filtering software or other technology-based protection systems may be disabled by a supervising teacher or school administrator, as necessary, for purposes of bona fide research or other educational projects being conducted by students age 17 and older.

**F) Failure to Follow Policy**

Use of the computer network and Internet for education, research, administration, and incidental personal use is a privilege, not a right. A user who violates Policy 4202, shall, at a minimum, have his or her access to the computer network and Internet terminated, which the district may refuse to reinstate for the remainder of the student's enrollment or staff member's employment. A user violates the Policy by his or her own action and should understand that it is a personal responsibility to report any violations by others that come to their attention. Further, a user violates the Policy if he or she permits another to use his or her account or password to access the computer network and Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated. The district may also take other disciplinary action in such circumstances.

**II. BEHAVIOR STANDARDS**

A) Users are expected to behave in a moral, legal, and ethical fashion that supports district education goals.

B) Abusive conduct when using the computer or network is prohibited.

**Abusive conduct can be, but is not limited to:**

- 1) Placing of unlawful information on the system
- 2) Using abusive, obscene, threatening or objectionable language.
- 3) Sending messages that are likely to result in the loss of recipient's work or systems.
- 4) Sending of "chain letters," or "broadcast" messages to lists or individuals.
- 5) Use of the system to intimidate or create an atmosphere of harassment.

C) Interference with or disruption of the network users, services, or equipment is prohibited.

**Disruptions could include, but are not limited to:**

- 1) Distribution of unsolicited advertising.
- 2) Propagation of computer worms or viruses.
- 3) Unauthorized entry to any other machine accessible via the network.
- 4) Attempting to degrade or degrading system performance.

D) Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state laws or regulations is prohibited and may constitute a criminal offense.

E) Accessing another individual's electronic mail is prohibited except when an investigation requires the monitoring of systems by authorized technology staff.

F) Attempts to gain unauthorized access to systems is prohibited.

G) The use of another individual's access codes/passwords is prohibited

- H) Copying of another individual's work or copyrighted material is prohibited.
- I) Use of the computer system or network for commercial or promotional purposes is prohibited, except as provided by the district Message Board.

### III. THE COMPUTER NETWORK

*The district network and any access to the larger information networks exists for the primary purpose of transmitting and sharing information between academic and research organizations.*

- A) All computers from which electronic information resources can be accessed by students will be in supervised areas. District staff shall monitor student computer use, providing assistance or taking corrective action when necessary.
- B) Designated district staff shall assist in providing:
  - ⇒ Training for students and other staff in the appropriate and safe use of remote electronic information resources.
  - ⇒ Instructions to students and staff on the responsible use of on-line resources.
  - ⇒ Direction to on-line resources that relate to curriculum, teaching and learning, and related communications priority activities and applications.
- C) Network use must be consistent with the goals and standards of the district, school, and specific curriculum.
- D) Networked computers may be used as a laboratory for research and experimentation in computer communications and curriculum development where such use does not interfere with normal operations.
- E) Faculty, students, staff and associates are individually responsible for the proper use of their accounts, including proper password protection and appropriate use of network resources. Users are expected to protect their accounts from being used by anyone else.
- F) An account assigned to an individual shall be used by that individual only. Teachers will not provide network access to a student through a teacher account.
- G) To ensure security and prevent unauthorized access to account privileges, users must log off the network any time they cannot monitor the use of their machine.

### IV. USE OF COMPUTER HARDWARE

- A) Only individuals authorized by the district Technology Department will install, service, and/or maintain district-owned computer hardware.
- B) No hardware, including cables or peripherals, may be moved without authorization from district Technology Staff.

- C) It is the responsibility of the faculty member to whom the computer is assigned to shut down their computer system at the end of each day. It is the responsibility of the faculty, students, staff, and associates to make reasonable efforts to keep the computer clean and away from smoke, dust, magnets, food, liquid, and any other foreign material known to be harmful to the hardware or functionality of the system.
- D) It is the responsibility of the faculty member to whom the computer is assigned to report malfunctions of the hardware to the site technology specialist using appropriate reporting method.
- E) The district is not responsible for the loss of any data on the local drives. Data on the local drives is not secure and your local drives may be reformatted at any time. In order to secure data, all data must be saved to a location on the network i.e. home directory or shared directories.

## **V. USE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE**

- A) Only software that is legally owned or authorized by the district may be installed on district computer hardware.
- B) The unlawful copying of any copyrighted software and/or its use on district hardware is prohibited.
- C) Modification or erasure of software without authorization is prohibited.
- D) The introduction of any viral agent is prohibited. Every diskette should be checked for a virus each time it is put into the computer system.
- E) The technology staff has the right to remove any software from district owned equipment where the user cannot provide original copies of the software and/or appropriate license for the software.
- F) The technology staff has the right to remove any software from district owned equipment that degrades the performance of the equipment, the operating system or the network.

## **VI. PROPER RESPECT FOR COPYRIGHT**

*In an effort to encourage the proper respect for copyright on the Internet, the following guide for staff and student users is provided:*

- If the user did not create a non-public domain written work, piece of art, photograph or music, or obtain rights to it, **THE USER DOES NOT OWN IT.**
- If the user does not own the non-public domain material, the user may not copy it or distribute it to others.

- The author or owner of a document or other type of information must explicitly relinquish rights in order to place a work in the “Public Domain” and thereby make copying/distribution with specific authorization possible.
- *Fair use* allows the user to copy small portions of a work the user does not own without permission, but only for criticism, education, news reporting, and the like.
- When in doubt, the user should ask the creator or owner of material for permission to use the work..

## **VII. WEB PUBLISHING ON DISTRICT WEB SERVER(S)**

*District, school, and classroom webpages are public documents giving the outside world access to district, school, and classroom information. All district webpages should support the educational aims of The Fayetteville Public Schools. Subsequent in this document, “District web pages” refers not only to district-level, but also school and classroom-level web pages.*

### *A) Purpose of District Web Pages*

- Introducing outside visitors to the school and its programs.
- Sharing the school's successes with the world.
- Sharing pertinent up-to-date school information with district patrons.
- Linking internal users to sound internal and external sources of information.
- Facilitating the learning process

### *B) School Webmasters*

All district school websites must have a school webmaster approved by the principal. The school webmaster will assist the principal of the school in reviewing staff web pages and ensuring that district webpage policies and guidelines are followed.

### *C) Content and Communication*

The content of school web pages must be consistent with the educational aims of Fayetteville Public School District as contained in the Vision 2006 – Strategic Plan (<http://www.fayar.net/admin/stplan.html>).

The school and classroom webpages shall be hosted on a district web server. Web page developers will keep pages up-to-date (e.g. revised every two weeks) and follow district policies and guidelines. The district webmaster will periodically review school websites and will work with the school webmaster to ensure district web page guidelines are met. Pages and/or content found to be out of compliance may be subject to removal at the discretion of the district webmaster.

District web pages will not contain content that could allow people to contact students directly. In addition, district web pages will not contain content that could compromise building security.

### *D) Advertisements / Commercial Use*

School web pages may contain acknowledgments of school partnerships or sponsorships. Web pages may provide links to partners' or sponsors' websites. However, commercial use of the FPS district Website is strictly prohibited.

### *E) Identification of Students*

All district web authors are responsible for following policy (see section I, subsection C of this document) concerning the release of student images and information for publication.

*F) Respecting Copyright*

Web Authors will respect copyright law (see section VI of this document). Copyright may be claimed by the author for original work.

*G) Accessibility*

All webpages will comply with Arkansas Act 1227 of 1999 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. Minimum requirements can be found in the Webmaster Guidelines published on [www.fayar.net](http://www.fayar.net).

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