

# School District of Springfield Township

No. 250.1

SECTION: STUDENTS

TITLE: Acceptable Use of Computers,  
Network, Internet, Electronic  
Communications and  
Information Systems By  
Students

ADOPTED: May 16, 2005

REVISED: August 1, 2006, August 3, 2010

<p>Purpose</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Acceptable Use of the Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications and Information Systems By Students</b></p> <p>The School District of Springfield Township (“School District”) provides students with access to the School District’s electronic communication systems and network, which includes Internet access, whether wired or wireless, or by any other means.</p> <p>The School District provides technology resources with a firm belief that the educational advantages outweigh the potential for misuse. In return, the District expects students to exercise appropriate personal responsibility in their use of these resources. Our goals are to provide access to educational tools, resources, and communication, and to encourage innovation and collaboration. Our policies are intended to promote the most effective, safe, productive, and instructionally sound uses of these tools.</p>
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>ICT- Computers, network, Internet, electronic communications and information systems (collectively “Information and Communication Technology or ICT systems”) provide access to vast, diverse and unique resources. Use of any technological resource accessed through our ICT for school sanctioned purposes is subject to the parameters of this definition and policy. The Board will provide access to the School District’s ICT systems for students in order to facilitate learning and teaching to foster the educational purpose and mission of the School District.</p>

	<p>1. <u>Access to the Internet</u> – A device will be considered to have access to the Internet if it is connected to a School District network or external network</p> <p>2. <u>Device</u> – is defined as any electronic equipment capable of storing, receiving, and transmitting data or information. It includes but is not limited to any personal hardware such as a computer or phone, software, or other technology used on School District premises or at School District events, or connected to the Internet, containing School District programs or School District or student data (including images, files, and other information).</p> <p>3. <u>Electronic Communications Systems</u> – Any messaging, collaboration, publishing, broadcast, or distribution system that depends on resources to create, send, forward, reply to, transmit, store, hold, copy, download, display, view, read, or print electronic records for purposes of communication across network systems between or among individuals or groups</p> <p>4. <u>Educational Purpose</u> - Includes use of the ICT systems for school sanctioned activities.</p> <p>5. <u>Harmful to Minors</u> – Any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depictions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. taken as a whole, with respect to minors, appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;</li> <li>b. depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual content, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibition of the genitals, and</li> <li>c. taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value with regard to minors.</li> </ul> <p>6. <u>Inappropriate material</u> - Any material (visual, graphic, text and any other form) that is profane, obscene (pornography or child pornography), sexually explicit, threatening, terroristic, harassing or otherwise unlawful or that advocates illegal acts, violence or discrimination (as it pertains to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, political beliefs, receipt of financial aid, or disability) towards people or property.</p>
--	---

<p>Authority</p>	<p>7. <u>Minor</u> – For purposes of compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (“CIPA”), an individual who has not yet attained the age of seventeen. For other purposes, minor will mean the age of minority as defined in the relevant law.</p> <p>8. <u>Network</u> – A system that links two or more electronic devices, including all components necessary to effect the operation.</p> <p>9. <u>Obscene</u> – Analysis of the material meets the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;</li> <li>b. whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically designed by the applicable state or federal law to be obscene; and</li> <li>c. whether the work taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.</li> </ul> <p>10. <u>Technology Protection Measure(s)</u> – A specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access.</p> <p>1. In conjunction with the ever increasing role technology plays in learning, the School District provides access to the ICT systems. . These systems, as well as user accounts and information, are the property of the School District. The School District reserves the right to deny access to prevent unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal activity, and may revoke access and/or administer appropriate disciplinary action.</p> <p>2. The School District will cooperate fully with ISP, local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to the misuse of the ICT systems.</p> <p>3. It is often necessary to access user accounts in order to perform routine maintenance and security tasks. System administrators have the right to access the stored, transmitted or received communications or information of user accounts for any reason in order to uphold this policy and to maintain the system.</p>
------------------	--

4. Users have no privacy expectation in the contents of their personal files or any of their use of the School District's ICT systems.
5. The School District reserves the right to monitor, track, log and access ICT systems use and to monitor and allocate fileserver space.
6. The School District reserves the right to restrict access to any Internet sites or functions it may deem inappropriate through hardware or software blocking or general policy. Measures designed to restrict adults' and minors' access to material harmful to minors may be disabled to enable an adult to access bona fide research or for another lawful purpose.
7. The School District has the right, but not the duty, to monitor, track, log, access and report all aspects of computer information technology and related systems of all users and of any student's personal devices to protect the School District's resources and to ensure compliance with this policy and other School District policies and the law.
8. The School District has the right to intercept communications for maintenance and security purposes and, if doing so, determines that this policy has been violated the School District may take action.
9. The School District reserves the right to restrict or limit usage of lower priority ICT systems and computer uses when network and computing requirements exceed available capacity according to the following priorities:
  - a. Highest – uses that directly support the education of the students.
  - b. Medium – uses that indirectly benefit the education of the student.
  - c. Lowest – uses that include reasonable and limited educationally-related interpersonal communications and incidental personnel communications.
1. The School District additionally reserves the right to:
  - a. determine which ICT systems services will be provided

<p>Responsibility</p>	<p>through School District resources.</p> <p>b. view and monitor network traffic, file server space, processor, and system utilization, and all applications provided through the network and communications systems, including e-mail.</p> <p>c. remove excessive e-mail or files taking up server disk space to maintain efficient operation as determined by the Director of Technology. A warning may be given prior to removing e-mail or files, unless the files present an imminent threat to the ICT.</p> <p>d. revoke user privileges, remove user accounts, or refer to legal authorities when violation of this and any other applicable School District policies occur or state or federal law is violated.</p> <p>1. In compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the School District actively filters Internet content. The dynamic and interactive nature of the Internet makes it impossible to filter and block all inappropriate content. Intentionally accessing or using inappropriate content may result in action explained further in this and other relevant policies.</p> <p>Students must sign a User Agreement and agree to the requirements of this policy in order to be permitted to use the School District’s ICT systems.</p> <p>2. <u>School District Limitation of Liability</u></p> <p>The School District makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through the School District’s ICT systems will be error-free or without defect. The School District does not warrant the effectiveness of Internet filtering. The electronic information available to users does not imply endorsement of the content by the School District, nor is the School District responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the ICT systems. The School District will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to, information that may be lost, damaged, delayed, misdelivered, or unavailable when using the computers, network and electronic communications systems. The School District will not be responsible for material that is retrieved through the Internet, or the consequences that may result from them. The School District will not be responsible for any unauthorized financial obligations, charges or fees resulting from access to the School District’s ICT systems. In no event will</p>
-----------------------	---

<p>Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>the School District be liable to the user for any damages whether direct, indirect, special or consequential, arising out the use of the ICT. The School District will not be held liable for any damage that may occur as a result of connecting to the District Network or any electrical power source. The School District will not be held responsible for any physical damage, loss or theft of the personally-owned device and reserves the right to inspect, at any time, any personally-owned network capable device whether or not it is connected to the District Network. Student use of personally-owned devices in the classroom setting may be permitted based on the instructional value its use. Persons connecting devices to the School District of Springfield Township Network agree to maintain current anti-virus software enabled on their devices and to provide access to applicable addresses in order to provide updates and view information.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Director of Technology and/or designee will serve as the coordinator to oversee the School District’s ICT systems, approve activities, provide leadership for proper training for all users in the use of the ICT systems and the requirements of this policy, establish a system to insure adequate supervision of the ICT systems, maintain executed user agreements, and interpret and enforce this policy.</li> <li>2. The District Administration will work with local regional or state resources as necessary, to provide age appropriate education to assure that the online activities of students are monitored and that students are provided educational programs regarding appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and responses. Plans for educating students set forth above will be periodically reviewed and updated by the District Administration.</li> <li>3. The Director of Technology and/or designee will establish a process for setting-up individual and class accounts, set quotas for disk usage on the system, establish a retention schedule, and establish the School District virus protection process.</li> <li>4. Unless otherwise denied for cause, student access to the ICT systems resources will be through supervision by the staff. Administrators, teachers and staff have the responsibility to work together to help students develop the skills and judgment required to make effective and appropriate use of the resources. All users have the responsibility to respect the rights of all other users within the School District and School District ICT systems, and to abide by the rules established by the School District, its ISP, local, state and federal laws.</li> </ol>
<p>Guidelines</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Access to the ICT Systems</u></li> </ol>

a. ICT systems user accounts will be used only by authorized owners of the accounts for authorized purposes.

b. An account will be made available according to a procedure developed by School District authorities. The procedure will require that all users review this policy and sign a User Agreement prior to being issued an account.

c. This and other School District policies, as well as applicable laws and regulations, govern student use of the School District's ICT systems.

Internet. School District students will have access to the Web through the School District's ICT systems as needed.

## 2. Parental Notification and Responsibility

The School District will notify parents about the School District ICT systems and the policies governing their use. This policy contains restrictions on accessing inappropriate material. It is not practically possible for the School District to monitor the dynamic nature of content on the Internet. The School District will encourage parents/guardians to specify to their child(ren) what material is and is not acceptable for their child(ren) to access. However, students are required to comply with the terms of this policy and other applicable policies, as well all applicable laws and regulations when accessing the School District's ICT systems. Parents are responsible for monitoring their children's use of the School District's ICT systems when they are accessing the systems from remote locations.

3. Students as consumers and creators of content on the District ICT must:

a. use the District computer system in a manner consistent with District policies and the educational mission.

b. use the system only for educationally related initiatives and activities.

c. promptly disclose to a member of the school staff any message that is harassing or inappropriate.

- d. remain responsible for their individual use, including taking reasonable precautions to prevent others from using their accounts and keeping their passwords private.
- e. promptly notify a member of the school staff of any possible security problems.
- f. promptly disclose to a member of the school staff any inadvertent access to unacceptable materials or information or any unacceptable Internet information.
- g. follow any individual school's or teacher's instructions for Internet use that may be imposed in addition to this policy.

4. Prohibitions

The use of the School District's ICT systems for illegal, inappropriate, unacceptable, or unethical purposes by users is prohibited. Such activities engaged in by users are strictly prohibited and illustrated below.

These prohibitions are in effect any time School District resources are accessed whether on School District property or remotely directly or indirectly from another ISP whether using district equipment or personal equipment

Students as Consumers and Creators WILL NOT:

- a. access, review, upload, download, store, print, post, or distribute pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit, or other materials harmful to minors.
- b. transmit or receive inappropriate material as defined in this policy.
- c. access, review, upload, download, store, print, post, or distribute materials that use language or images that are inappropriate in the educational setting or disruptive to the educational process or post information or materials that could cause damage or danger of disruption.
- d. knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization or harass another person or engage in personal attacks, including libelous or slanderous attacks.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>e. engage in any illegal act or violate any local, state, or federal statute or law.</li><li>f. vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization, including the School District, or attempt to degrade or disrupt equipment, software, or system performance by spreading computer viruses or by any other means tamper with, modify, or change the District computer system software, hardware, or wiring or take any action to violate the system security or use the system in such a way as to disrupt its use by other users.</li><li>g. hack or otherwise gain unauthorized access to information resources or access another person's materials, information, or files without the direct permission of that person or to provide access to unauthorized users.</li><li>g. post private information about another person or post personal contact information about themselves or other persons, including, but not limited to, addresses, telephone numbers, school addresses, work addresses, identification numbers, account numbers, access codes or passwords, or re-post a message that was sent to the user privately without permission of the person who sent the message.</li><li>h. hack or otherwise gain unauthorized access to the District computer system or any other system through the District computer system; attempt to log in through another person's account; use computer accounts, access codes, or network identification other than those assigned to the user; or distribute passwords to others.</li><li>i. violate copyright laws or usage licensing agreements or otherwise use another person's property without the person's prior approval or proper citation, including downloading or exchanging pirated software or copying software to or from any school computer or plagiarizing works they find on the Internet.</li><li>j. use ICT to conduct a business or further unauthorized commercial purposes or attain financial gain unrelated to the mission of the District or offer or provide goods or services or make product advertisement or purchase goods or services for personal use without authorization of the appropriate school official.</li><li>k. Support any political or lobbying activity.</li></ul>
--	--

1. Post chain letters or engage in “spamming,” i.e., the sending of an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.

5. Due Process

- a. The School District will cooperate with the School District’s ISP, local, state, and federal officials to the extent legally required in investigations concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through the School District’s ICT systems.

- b. Students will be provided with due process in accordance with state and federal law and School District policy for discipline resulting from the violation of this policy.

- c. The School District may terminate or limit student access and provide notice to the user.

6. Search and Seizure

- a. The School District reserves the right to monitor, track, log and access any electronic communications

- b. Users have no legitimate expectation of privacy in their use of the School District’s ICT systems, and other School District technology, even when used for personal reasons.

- c. The School District reserves the right, but not the obligation, to access any personal technology device brought onto the School District’s premises or at School District events that has been connected or is believed to have been connected to the School District network, to determine whether the device contains School District programs or School District or student data (including images, files, and other information), to protect the School District’s resources, and to ensure compliance with this policy, other School District policies and applicable laws.

7. Copyright and Fair Use

Federal law pertaining to copyrights governs the use of material accessed through the School District resources. Users must comply with Policy 814 Copyright Materials regarding the use of copyrighted materials and media guidelines for educational fair use.

8. Consequences for Inappropriate, Unauthorized and Illegal Use

Use of this resource demands personal responsibility and an understanding of acceptable uses of the Internet. Depending on the nature and degree of the violation and the number of previous violations, unacceptable use of the District computer system may result in one or more of the following consequences: warnings, usage restrictions, loss of privileges, oral or written reprimands, suspensions, expulsions, legal proceedings on a case-by-case basis.

a. This policy incorporates all other relevant School District policies, such as, but not limited to, the student discipline policies, copyright policy, property policy, curriculum policies, terroristic threat policy, and harassment policies.

b. The user will be responsible for damages to the network, equipment, electronic communications systems, and software resulting from deliberate and willful acts. The user will also be financially responsible for incidental or unintended damage resulting from willful or deliberate violations of this policy.

c. Vandalism may result in cancellation of access to the School District's ICT systems and resources and is subject to discipline and/or legal action

d. Violations as described in this policy may be reported to the School District, appropriate legal authorities, whether the ISP, local, state, or federal law enforcement. The School District will cooperate to the extent legally required with authorities in all such investigations.

**STUDENT USER AGREEMENT**

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the School District of Springfield Township Acceptable Use of Technology Policy for Students, recognize its importance, and understand this policy governs my use of the District networks and Internet. I have been instructed to read and adhere to the provisions of this policy. Additionally, I understand that if I violate the policy, I am subject to School District discipline and could be subject to ISP, as well as local, state and federal legal recourse. I agree to comply with the School District of Springfield Township Acceptable Use of Technology Policy for Students.

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

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the School District of Springfield Township Acceptable Use of Technology Policy for Students recognize its importance, and understand this policy governs my child's use of the District networks and Internet.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_