

BETHEL-TATE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Purpose of Providing Internet Service

The purpose of providing access to the Internet, an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers, is to advance and promote a world class public education at the Bethel-Tate Local Schools.

Purpose of Acceptable Use Policy

The purpose of this user policy is to facilitate and set guidelines for exploring and using the Internet as a tool for learning.

Policy

A goal of Bethel-Tate Local School's media program is to promote innovation and educational excellence. Since the Internet can be considered a vast digital library, usage should conform to the Bethel-Tate Local School District Policies. Bethel-Tate Local School's Internet provider is Hamilton/Clermont Cooperative Association of Boards of Education (H/CCA); therefore, Bethel-Tate Local Schools must comply with H/CCA's Network Acceptable Use Policy, which is attached and is incorporated as part of this policy. Any Bethel-Tate Local School's user traffic that traverses another network may be subject to that network's acceptable use policy. In order to maintain intellectual freedom, yet provide collections that are consistent with the philosophy, goals, and objectives of the school district, Bethel-Tate Local School Internet Acceptable Use Policy supports H/CCA's installation of impediments (firewalls) to restrict access to controversial material, while at the same time recognizing the impossibility of controlling all material.

All use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the purposes of Bethel-Tate Local School District. The use of the Internet at Bethel-Tate Local Schools is a privilege and users must abide by the Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of the privilege. Illegal use may result in legal consequences.

The Bethel-Tate Local School District reserves the right to revise its policy subject to board approval.

Guidelines

Students are required to have written approval from a parent or guardian to access the Internet.

The network shall be used in such way that will not disrupt the use of the network by other users.

Network accounts shall be used only by the authorized owners of the accounts for authorized purposes. Real names shall be used; pseudonyms are not permitted.

Passwords shall be kept private and a password holder shall not obtain the password of another holder.

Sponsoring teachers will train and/or supervise students. Mail listservs shall be monitored regularly and deleted from the personal mail directory.

Copies of software shall only be shared when the user has received written permission of the copyright owner or the original software is clearly identified as a shareware in the public domain.

Caution shall be exercised in importing files to reduce the risk of "computer viruses." All disks must be scanned by virus protection software before use on school computers.

Conservation of computer supplies (paper, ink, etc.) is required.

Note that while communications and information accessible via the network are assumed to be private property and respected as such, electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail.

Bethel-Tate Local Schools reserves the right to log Internet use and to monitor fileserver space for utilization by users.

User who can identify a security problem shall notify a system administrator immediately and not reveal the problem to others.

Users shall indemnify and hold the Bethel-Tate Local School District, its employees and agents, harmless for any and all damages sustained while or by using their district Internet accounts.

Users who have discovered inappropriate sites accessible from the school network are required to report the site to a school employee immediately.

The administration reserves the right to monitor any computer activity and on-line communications for improper use.

Unacceptable Uses include, but are not limited to the following:

Hate mail, harassment (such as sending unwanted mail), discriminatory remarks, posting anonymous messages, and other antisocial behaviors.

Illegal installation of copyrighted software for use on school computers.

Making unauthorized copies of software found on school computers, either by copying them onto diskettes or onto other computers through electronic mail or bulletin boards.

Vandalism, including malicious attempts to harm or destroy data or another user, and uploading or creating "computer viruses."

Use of the network to access pornographic material and inappropriate text files dangerous to the integrity of the network.

Copying, changing, reading, or using files in another user's area without that user's prior permission.

Attempting to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment.

Advertising, political lobbying, and for-profit activities.

Revealing addresses or phone numbers of others.

Downloading information onto the hard drives of any Bethel-Tate Local Schools computer for permanent storage without prior authorization.

Any illegal activity.

