

BOARD POLICY

Descriptive Code: IFBG

Acceptable Use Policy

Date: June 16, 2008

The Buford City School's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is intended to

- ? prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful activities by internet users,
- ? prevent unauthorized disclosure of or access to sensitive information, and
- ? comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

For the purposes of this policy, "user" shall include anyone utilizing computers, Internet access, email programs, chat rooms and/or other forms of direct electronic communications or equipment provided by Buford City Schools or accessed through the school district's system. Further, only current students or employees are authorized to use the network.

To the extent practicable, the Buford City School System shall use technology protection measures to block or filter access to online visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, and/or harmful to minors. The school system reserves the right to

- ? monitor users' online activities,
- ? access, review, copy, and store or delete any electronic communication or files,
- ? disclose such electronic communication or files to others as it deems necessary.

Users should have no expectation of privacy regarding their use of school system property, including the network and/or Internet access or files, including email.

Acceptable Uses of the Buford City Schools Computer Network or the Internet

Each year, students, along with their parents shall be required by their schools to sign an Acknowledgement of this policy before being granted access to the system computer network and Internet access. Once signed, that permission / acknowledgement shall remain in effect for the remainder of the school year unless it is either revoked by the parent or the student loses the privilege of using the school system's network due to violation of this policy.

Employees and other users are also required to follow this policy.

All users shall follow this policy and report any misuse of the network or Internet to a teacher, supervisor or other appropriate school system personnel. Access is provided primarily for education and school system business. In using the network, users have implicitly consented to follow this policy. Students who are uncertain about whether a particular use is acceptable or appropriate should consult their teachers. Employees who are uncertain about whether a particular use is acceptable or appropriate should consult their site technology coordinator or Principal.

Unacceptable Uses of the Computer Network or Internet

The Buford City School System reserves the right to take immediate action regarding violations of this policy. Such violations may include but are not limited to:

- ? Creating security and/or safety issues for the school system, students, employees, schools, network or computer resources,
- ? Expending school system resources on content the school system in its sole discretion determines lacks legitimate educational content/purpose,
- ? Accessing sites that are deemed inappropriate by the school system.
- ? Violating any state or federal law or municipal ordinance, such as: accessing or transmitting pornography of any kind, obscene depictions, harmful materials, materials that encourage others to violate the law, confidential information or copyrighted materials;
- ? Engaging in criminal activities that are punishable and contrary to the law.

In addition to the above, the following activities are expressly prohibited:

- ? Selling or purchasing illegal items or substances;
- ? Obtaining and/or using anonymous email sites; spamming; spreading viruses;
- ? Causing harm to others or damage to their property, such as:
 1. Using profane, abusive, or impolite language; threatening, harassing, or making damaging or false statements about others or accessing, transmitting, or downloading offensive, harassing, or disparaging materials;
 2. Deleting, copying, modifying, or forging other users' names, emails, files, or data; disguising one's identity, impersonating other users, or sending anonymous email;
 3. Damaging computer equipment, files, data or the network in any way, including intentionally accessing, transmitting or downloading computer viruses or other harmful files or programs, or disrupting any computer system performance;
 4. Using any school system computer to pursue "hacking," internal or external to the school system, or attempting to access information protected by privacy laws; or
 5. Accessing, transmitting or downloading large files, including "chain letters" or any type of "pyramid" schemes.
- ? Engaging in uses that jeopardize access or lead to unauthorized access into others' accounts or other computer networks, such as:
 1. Using another's account password(s) or identifier(s);
 2. Interfering with other users' ability to access their account(s); or
 3. Disclosing anyone's password to others or allowing them to use another's account(s).
- ? Using the network or Internet for commercial purposes, for example:
 1. Using the Internet for personal financial gain;
 2. Using the Internet for personal advertising, promotion, or financial gain; or
 3. Conducting for-profit business activities and/or engaging in non-government related fundraising or public relations activities such as solicitation for religious purposes, lobbying for personal political purposes.

Penalties for Improper Use

The use of a school system account is a privilege, and misuse may result in the restriction or cancellation of the account. Misuse may also lead to disciplinary and/or legal action for both students and employees, including suspension, expulsion, dismissal from school system employment, and/or criminal prosecution.

Disclaimer

The Buford City School System makes no guarantees as to the quality of the services provided through its network and information technology system and is not responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs, or other obligations arising from use of the network or accounts. Any additional charges a user accrues due to the use of the school system's network are to be borne by the user. The school system also denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through user access. Any statement, accessible on the computer network or the Internet, is understood to be the author's individual point of view and not that of the school system, its affiliates, officials, or employees.



I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the provisions of the Acceptable Use Policy of the Buford City School System.

Date: _____ **School:** _____

Student Name: _____ **Student Signature:** _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Please return this form to the school where it will be kept on file. It is required for all students that will be using a computer network and/or Internet access.