

Northwest Technology Center

4.19 Internet Use

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF INTERNET

Please read the following carefully before signing this document. This is a legally binding document and is a part of the policies of Northwest Technology Center.

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the Oklahoma public school districts. We are very pleased to bring this access to Oklahoma and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in the Oklahoma public schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

- ✓ Electronic mail communication with people all over the world
- ✓ Information and news
- ✓ Public domain and shareware of all types
- ✓ Discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from diverse cultures to the environment to music to politics
- ✓ Access to many university catalogs

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Northwest Technology Center and the Oklahoma State Department of Education have taken available precautions to restrict access to inappropriate materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover inappropriate information. Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Northwest Technology Center user violates any of these provisions, their access will be terminated and future access will be denied. Additionally, students who violate this agreement will face disciplinary consequences including the possibility of suspension or removal from school. Consequences shall be consistent with the behavior and conduct policies of Northwest Technology Center applicable to students. Likewise, teachers determined to be in violation of this policy may face adverse employment penalties including the possibility of non-reemployment or dismissal. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party(ies) who signed has(have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

INTERNET – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) **Acceptable Use** – The purpose of the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. School use must be in support of education and research and consistent with educational objectives. Use of other organization’s network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited. Use for commercial activities is generally not acceptable.

THERE IS NO EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY OF ANY USER IN THE USE OF NORTHWEST TECHNOLOGY CENTER’S INTERNET SYSTEM. ITS USE MAY BE PERIODICALLY REVIEWED BY DESIGNATED PERSONNEL. USE OF THE INTERNET SYSTEM IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH THIS POLICY AND AGREEMENT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

2) **Privileges and Penalties** – The use of Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Each student who receives access will participate in a discussion with a Northwest Technology Center faculty member pertaining to the proper use of the network. The system administrators and teachers will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. The district may deny, revoke, or suspend specific user access. Additionally, in the event the user incurs any unauthorized costs, fees or charges, they shall be the sole responsibility of the user and not Northwest Technology Center. Likewise, any user who willfully or through gross negligence destroys or damages any District computing resources or equipment shall be held financially responsible for the repair or replacement of the computing resources or equipment.

3) **Inappropriate Use** – Each system user is expected to comply with all District policies governing internet access and to abide by generally-accepted rules of network etiquette. These general rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) **Appropriate language** – Do not use abusive language in messages to others. Be polite. Do not use obscene, indecent, lewd or profane language, vulgarities, rude or disrespectful language. Do not engage in personal attacks or activities intended to distress, harass or annoy another user, including cyber-bullying.
- b) **Safety** – Do not reveal personal contact information about yourself or any other person. This information includes telephone numbers and addresses. Do not use the Internet access to arrange meetings with persons you have met on line. Users will promptly disclose to the teacher, District system administrator or to some other member of the faculty or staff any message they consider to be inappropriate or which makes them feel uncomfortable.
- c) **Electronic mail** – Users should be aware that electronic mail (e-mail) may not be assumed to be a private communication. The District and system administrators do have access to email. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities. System users should not post any message which is intended to be private.

- d) Network resources – System users should not use the network in a way that will disrupt the use of the network by other users. THE NETWORK SHOULD BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL, PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ONLY. System users should refrain from downloading large files unless absolutely necessary, and then only when the system is not being heavily used. Such files should be removed from the system computer to the user’s personal computer as soon as possible.
- e) Intellectual property – Do not plagiarize works obtained from the internet. Users must respect the rights of copyright owners and comply with all limitations imposed upon use of copyrighted material.

4) Northwest Technology Center and the Oklahoma State Department of Education make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Northwest Technology Center and the Oklahoma State Department of Education will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via Northwest Technology Center, or the Oklahoma State Department of Education is at the users own risk. Northwest Technology Center is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained.

5) Security - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a teacher who will in turn notify a system administrator. Do not demonstrate any problems to other users. Do not use an individual’s account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to access Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to Internet.

6) Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, data of another user, Internet, or any agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

7) Exception of Terms and Conditions - All terms and conditions as stated in this document are applicable to Northwest Technology Center, and the Oklahoma State Department of Education. These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America.

Northwest Technology Center School District #10 – Policy Handbook

8) Inappropriate Material – Access to information shall not be restricted or denied solely because of the political, religious, or philosophical content of the material. However, system users must realize that rights go hand-in-hand with responsibilities and agree not to use the District system to access information or to distribute information or material which is:

- a) Obscene to minors, meaning (i) material which, taken as a whole, lacks serious artistic, political or scientific value for minors and, (ii) when an average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find the written material to convey obsessive interest in sex by minors.
- b) Libelous, meaning a false and unprivileged statement about a specific individual which tends to harm the individual's reputation.
- c) Vulgar, lewd or indecent, meaning material which, taken as a whole, an average person would deem improper for access by or distribution to minors because of sexual connotations or profane language.
- d) Display or promotion of unlawful products of services, meaning material which advertises or advocates the use of products or services prohibited by law from being sold or provided to minors.
- e) Group defamation or hate literature, meaning material which disparages a group on the basis of race, religious affiliation, ethnic or national origin, gender identity or preference, or handicapped condition or advocates illegal conduct or violence or discrimination toward any particular group of people, to include racial and religious epithets, "slurs", insults and abuse.
- f) Disruptive school operations, meaning a measure of material which, on the basis of past experience or based upon specific instances of actual or threatened disruptions relating to the information or material in question, is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation of school activities or school discipline.

10) Employee Access – In order for any employee of the District to gain access to the to the District system, the employee must sign the Employee Internet Access Agreement.

11) Application and Enforceability – The terms and conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to be incorporated in their entirety in the Internet Access Agreement executed by each system user. BY EXECUTING THE INTERNET ACCESS AGREEMENT, THE SYSTEM USER AGREES TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THIS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY. THE SYSTEM USER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT ANY VIOLATION OF THIS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY MAY RESULT IN ACCESS PRIVILEGES BEING REVOKED, DISCIPLINARY ACTION BEING TAKEN, INCLUDING, AS TO STUDENTS, DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNDER THE DISTRICT'S STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY AND, AS TO EMPLOYEES, ANY SUCH DISCIPLINE AS MAY BE ALLOWED BY LAW, INCLUDING TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.

**NORTHWEST TECHNOLOGY CENTER
STUDENT INTERNET ACCESS AGREEMENT**

STUDENT SECTION:

Student Name _____ Grade (if applicable) _____

School _____ School System _____

Home Address _____ Home Phone _____

The Internet Acceptable Use Policy and/or the Student Handbook for Northwest Technology Center have been made available at the Northwest Technology Center office and at www.nwtech.edu. I agree to abide by their provisions. I understand that any violation of the use provisions may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension and/or revocation of network privileges and suspension from school.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

SPONSORING PARENT OR GUARDIAN SECTION (Required):

The Internet Acceptable Use Policy and/or the Student Handbook for Northwest Technology Center have been made available at the Northwest Technology Center office and at www.nwtech.edu. I understand that the school district has taken reasonable precautions to ensure that access to controversial material is limited to the extent possible. I realize, however, that it is not possible to completely prevent access to inappropriate material. I will monitor my child's use of the network and his/her access to the Internet, and will accept full responsibility for supervision in that regard if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby release the school district from liability in the event that my child acquires inappropriate material through use of the district's computing resources or the Internet. I hereby request that the district issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Home Address _____ Home Phone _____

SPONSOR (Must be signed if the applicant is a student.) As the sponsor of this student, I have read the *Terms and Conditions for Internet Access*. I agree to instruct the student on acceptable use of the network and proper network etiquette. However, since the student may use the network for individual work or in the context of another class, I cannot be held responsible for the student's use of the network.

Sponsor Name _____ Date _____
(Please Print)

Sponsor Signature _____ Date _____

Student Access Agreement must be renewed each academic year.