

Alvin Independent School District

Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy

These guidelines are provided here so that students and parents are aware of the responsibilities students accept when they use district-owned computer hardware, operating system software, application software, stored text, data files, electronic mail, local databases, digitized information, and Internet access. In general, this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of all technology resources.

Expectations

- Student use of computers, other technology hardware, software, and computer networks including the Internet is only allowed when supervised or granted permission by a staff member.
- All users are expected to follow existing copyright laws. Copyright guidelines are posted and/or available in the media center of each campus as well as posted on the district website.
- Although the district has an Internet safety plan in place, students are expected to notify a staff member whenever they come across information or messages that are inappropriate, dangerous, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable.
- Students who identify or know about a security problem are expected to convey the details to their teacher without discussing it with other students.

E-Mail

- E-mail should be used for educational or administrative purposes only.
- E-mail transmissions, stored data, transmitted data, or any other use of online services by students, employees or other users shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by designated staff to ensure appropriate use.
- All e-mail and all contents are property of the district.

Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Using the network for illegal activities, including copyright, license or contract violations, downloading inappropriate materials, viruses, and/or software, such as but not limited to hacking and host file sharing software
- Students are not permitted to access social networking sites (i.e. MySpace, facebook, etc) at any time on the district computers.
- Using the network for financial or commercial gain, advertising, or political lobbying
- Accessing or exploring online locations or materials that do not support the curriculum and/or are inappropriate for school assignments, such as but not limited to pornographic sites.
- Vandalizing and/or tampering with equipment, programs, files, software, system performance or other components of the network

- Use or possession of hacking software is strictly prohibited.
- Causing congestion on the network or interfering with the work of others, e.g., chain letters or broadcast messages to lists or individuals
- Intentionally wasting finite resources, i.e., online time, real-time music
- Gaining unauthorized access anywhere on the network
- Revealing the home address or phone number of one's self or another person
- Invading the privacy of other individuals
- Using another user's account, password, or allowing another user to access your account or password.
- Coaching, helping, observing or joining any unauthorized activity on the network.
- Forwarding/distributing E-mail messages without permission from the author.
- Posting anonymous messages or unlawful information on the system
- Engaging in sexual harassment or using objectionable language in public or private messages, e.g., racist, terroristic, abusive, sexually explicit, threatening, stalking, demeaning or slanderous
- Falsifying permission, authorization or identification documents
- Obtain copies of, or modify files, data or passwords belonging to other users on the network.
- Knowingly placing a computer virus on a computer or network

General Guidelines

- Students will have access to all available forms of electronic media and communication which is in support of education and research and in support of the educational goals and objectives of the Alvin Independent School District.
- Students are responsible for their ethical and educational use of the computer online services in Alvin ISD.
- All policies and restrictions of computer online services must be followed.
- Transmission of any material which is in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: confidential information, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, and computer viruses.
- Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of a computer, or the files of another user, without the consent of the individual, campus administrator, or technology administrator, will be considered an act of vandalism and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Alvin ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Network Etiquette

- Be polite; messages typed in capital letters are the computer equivalent of shouting and are considered rude.
- Use appropriate language; swearing, vulgarity, ethnic or racial slurs, and any other inflammatory language are prohibited.
- Pretending to be someone else when sending/receiving messages is considered inappropriate.
- Transmitting obscene messages or pictures is prohibited.
- Revealing personal addresses or phone numbers of the user or others is prohibited.

- Using the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users is prohibited.

Consequences

The student in whose name a system account and/or computer hardware is issued will be responsible at all times for its appropriate use. Noncompliance with the guidelines may result in suspension or termination of technology privileges and disciplinary actions. Any serious infractions will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.