

FORT EDWARD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR INTERNET USE

Philosophy of Internet Use

The Fort Edward Union Free School District recognizes the tremendous opportunities presented to students through access to the Internet and fully support use of this information as an educational tool. Use of the Internet allows students to access libraries, databases and other resources as well as global communications that otherwise would be unavailable. However, use of this wide variety of information also permits access to sources which may not be acceptable. *For that reason, the district does support the use of filtering software.* In addition, during the school day the staff will guide students toward appropriate materials in using the computer network, just as parents *guide* children at home regarding the use of any information available on the Internet, from television or other electronic sources. The district shall make every effort to ensure that students use this source of knowledge responsibly. This includes communication of the concept that the validity of information found on the Internet may be questionable as well as the need to always reference materials. However, in the final analysis, it is the students themselves as well as their parents and guardians who are responsible for student behavior. This includes appropriate behavior when using the Internet. It is parents and guardians who set the standards which their children should follow when accessing information of any kind.

The Internet is used as an instructional tool by the staff of the Fort Edward Union Free School District. Use of the Internet by students is a parental choice, and the school district recognizes and supports this fact. *Before any student utilizes the Internet at school, parents/guardians and students are required to sign the acceptable use policy.*

Responsibilities and Rules for Internet Use

The school district recognizes that internet access is a privilege for students, not a right. With this privilege comes certain responsibilities. Inappropriate use of the internet will lead to a suspension or cancellation of this privilege. Students are responsible for their behavior and must realize that unacceptable behavior on the computer network *will result in disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Code of Conduct.*

Once the Acceptable Use Agreement has been signed, the school district assumes that the student will (*indeed*) honor the rules and regulations. Staff will make every effort to restrict, monitor and control the communications of students using the computer network. Standards of behavior will be clear, and Internet use by students will be monitored as much as possible. Ultimately (*however*) *each student is responsible for his/her behavior.* Other than making these standards clear and monitoring Internet use by students as much as possible, the school district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring or controlling the communications of students using the computer network. (In addition) The District shall not be responsible for any unauthorized charges resulting from Internet use.

The building principal shall have the authority to determine what is inappropriate use of the computer network. The District has the right to terminate or restrict access of the computer network to any

individual at any time and impose consequences in accordance with the District's discipline policy.

PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

- Use of the computer network for any illegal activity.
- Use of the computer network for plagiarism or any other illegal copying.
- Use of the computer network by an individual for any personal, for-profit activity.
- Use of the computer network to send or display any offensive messages or pictures.
- Use of the computer network to send any insulting or harassing messages.
- Use of obscene language.
- Use of e-mail for other than educational purposes.
- Using the identity or password of another individual.
- Invading the files or folders of another individual.
- Use of the computer to view or obtain any pornographic materials.
- Willful damage to the computer or to its operating system.
- Intentional disruption of the network system.

CONSEQUENCES OF PROHIBITED ACTIONS

- Suspension *and/or* termination of network access.
- Suspension *and/or* termination of computer access.
- School suspension.
- Superintendent's Hearing.
- Legal action and prosecution.
- *Any other disciplinary action imposed in accordance with the Code of Conduct.*

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM

Please review and discuss this Code of Discipline with your child or children. Please complete one form for each child enrolled in the Elementary School.

INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

I have read the *Internet Acceptable Use Policy* and I agree to comply with the rules and regulations for computer and Internet use as stated *therein*. *I realize that access to, and use of, the computer, and of the Internet, is a privilege, not a right. Having read the entire policy, I realize that if I exhibit unacceptable behavior, there will be consequences for my actions.*

Student's Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature

Date

As the parent/legal guardian of the student signing above, I have reviewed the entire Internet Acceptable Use Policy and give my permission for my son/daughter to access the Internet at the Fort Edward Union Free School District. If, at any time, I change my mind and decide to revoke my child's access to the Internet, I understand that I must notify the District in writing.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date