

## Understanding NISD Acceptable Use

This document explains in detail the general rules for appropriate and inappropriate use of the NISD Telecommunication System.

### RULES FOR APPROPRIATE USE

1. You will be assigned an individual account, and you are responsible for not sharing the password for that account with others or you will have access only through the teacher's account. *Example: If a friend knows your password, he or she may logon to banned sites using your username and password. These abuses will show up in the firewall database with your account listed. You will be held responsible.*
2. The account is to be used mainly for identified educational purposes, but some limited personal use is permitted. You will be held responsible at all times for the proper use of your account, and the District may suspend or revoke your access if you violate the rules. *Examples: On-line gaming sites, surfing the Internet without legitimate assignments from a Teacher, downloading music, and trying to enter prohibited sites via proxy (backdoor) servers are considered among many non-educational purposes.*
3. Remember that people who receive e-mail from you with a school address might think your message represents the school's point of view. *Note: Using email at school is not "protected" speech, and should be free of profanity, vulgar content, racial or ethnic slurs, and threats to others.*

### INAPPROPRIATE USES

1. Using the system for any illegal purpose. *Note: Ignorance of a state or federal law is not a proper defense for breaking a law.*
2. Disabling or attempting to disable any Internet filtering device. *Example: Students who use proxy servers to break through the District firewall to reach banned Web sites is an attempt to disable Internet filtering.*
3. Encrypting communications to avoid security review. *Example: Using a foreign language to access inappropriate web sites is not permitted.*
4. Borrowing someone's account without permission. *Example: Borrowing an account never includes sharing a user's password. An acceptable example of borrowing an account is when a teacher logs a student on to a Web site using the Teacher's account.*
5. Posting personal information about yourself or others (such as addresses and phone numbers). *Note: Remember Web sites including myspace.com and others like it or blocked by the NISD filter. Also, visiting chat rooms is usually discouraged, unless it is a NISD sponsored chat room.*
6. Downloading or using copyrighted information without permission from the copyright holder. *Example: Students should use a standard Web citation when they use Web information for research purposes. Links (URLs) to Web sites can most always be published; however, pictures from these sites cannot usually be published without permission.*
7. Intentionally introducing a virus to the computer system. *Example: If a student evades the District firewall to visit a prohibited site and inadvertently picks up spy ware or*

*viruses, this is considered to be intentional. Also, students must get permission from Teachers to use personal diskettes or thumb drives on District computers. The use of personal diskettes that students bring from home is discouraged.*

8. Posting messages or accessing materials that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. *Example: Using email to bully, threaten, or demean others at school is prohibited.*

9. Wasting school resources through the improper use of the computer system. *The following list includes activities that take excessive bandwidth. Using these programs, even for educational use should be supervised by Teachers or Supervisors: Using Web radio, downloading and storing music, using messenger services in addition to regular email, using and storing streaming video.*

10. Gaining unauthorized access to restricted information or resources. *Example: Using proxy servers to bypass the District's firewall to visit inappropriate sites. Example 2: Using another student's password to log on to the network.*

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE USE**

1. Suspension of access to the system:
2. Revocation of the computer system account; or
3. Other disciplinary or legal action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable laws.
4. The student agreement must be renewed each academic year.