COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS OF THE
AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Internet, a worldwide network of interconnected computers, provides an opportunity for users to communicate with each other, no matter how far apart they are geographically. Because of its enormous size, the Internet provides an almost limitless amount of information that can be put to great educational purposes. The potentially limitless amount of information available on the Internet creates the potential for the posting or retrieval, intentionally or unintentionally, of inappropriate or harmful material. It is the purpose of these guidelines to assist all members of the Auburn Public Schools' Computer Network, which includes World Wide Web access and electronic mail capability, to use this resource safely and appropriately.

The Auburn Public Schools' Computer Network, which includes World Wide Web access and electronic mail capability, exists solely for educational purposes, which are defined as classroom activities, research projects directly related to class assignments, career and professional development and high quality self-discovery activities of an educational nature. The Auburn Public Schools' computer network is not to be considered a resource intended for use as a public forum or for any purpose that is not directly related to the delivery of educational services.

Members of the Auburn Public Schools' community are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom, school hallway or at any school-sponsored event. Communications on the network may reach larger audiences than face-to-face conversations or telephone discussions. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. Access to network services will be provided to those who act in a considerate and responsible manner.

The Auburn Public Schools believes that the benefits to students from access to information resources and opportunity for collaboration available through the Internet exceed the potential disadvantages. However, the parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Auburn Public Schools respects each family's right to decide whether or not their child will have independent access to the World Wide Web at school. In making this decision, families should be aware that the Auburn Public School District intends to incorporate network use, Web access and e-mail in the schools according to grade level, as follows:

a. Grades kindergarten through two. Students at these grade levels will not have individual computer network passwords. During school time, teachers of students in grades kindergarten through two will guide them toward appropriate materials. Web access at these grade levels will be limited to teacher-directed and teacher-demonstrated use. Students will not be conducting independent research on the World Wide Web.

b. Grades three through eight. Students in grades three through eight will not have individual passwords. Students at these grade levels may have the opportunity to conduct research via the Web in the classroom, and to access electronic mail for a group account, only during directly supervised instruction.

c. Grades nine through twelve. Students in grades nine through twelve may be given individual access passwords and may have the opportunity to access the Web and conduct independent, self-directed research, both during classroom instruction and outside of classroom instruction, under the supervision of a teacher or other staff member.

For students to be permitted to gain independent access to the web they must agree to and abide by the rules set out below. For students under 18, parents must provide written permission forms before students will be permitted to gain independent access to the web. If the Auburn Public Schools does not receive a signed user agreement and, if applicable, a signed parental permission form, students will not gain independent access to the web but they may still have exposure to the Internet during classroom instruction or library research exercises.

The Auburn Public Schools will make every reasonable effort to minimize the risk that users will encounter objectionable material on the Internet. However, there is no absolute guarantee that this will not happen. The Auburn Public Schools intends to utilize any blocking or filtering safeguards required by law. With these measures, in addition to user education, implementation of this policy and grade-appropriate supervision, the Auburn Public Schools believes that the Internet can be used safely to enhance the delivery of educational services.

Rules:

1. Network access is a privilege, not a right. The use of the network must be consistent with, and directly related to, the educational objectives of the Auburn Public Schools. A violation of the terms of this Acceptable Use Policy may result in suspension or termination of network access privileges (other than directly supervised access during classroom instruction) and may also result in other disciplinary action consistent with the disciplinary policies of the Auburn Public Schools and could also result in criminal prosecution where applicable. The Auburn Public Schools will cooperate fully with law enforcement officials in any investigation relating to misuse of the Auburn Public Schools' computer network.

2. Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy include, but are not limited to, the following conduct:

   a. Cyberbullying, using profane, vulgar, threatening, defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, harassing or otherwise objectionable or criminal language in a public or private message.

   b. Sending messages or posting information that would likely result in the loss of a recipient's work or system.

   c. Sending "chain letters" or "broadcast" messages to lists or individuals, subscribing to "listserves" or "newsgroups" without prior permission, or using the Internet access for any other personal use, without prior permission.

   d. Participating in other types of use which would cause congestion of the network or interfere with the work of others.

   e. Using the network in a manner that would violate any U.S. or state law. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening material and spreading of computer viruses.

   f. Accessing or transmitting materials that are obscene, sexually explicit, or without redeeming educational value.

   g. Accessing any prohibited sites on the Internet.

   h. Revealing the personal address or telephone number of oneself or another person.

   i. Revealing one's password to anyone else, using anyone else's password, or pretending to be someone else when sending information over the computer network.

   j. Attempting to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment, including attempts to override, or to encourage others to override, any firewalls established on the network.

   k. Attempting to harm, modify or destroy data of another user.

   l. Exhibiting any other action whatsoever which would in any way subject the user or the Auburn Public Schools to any civil or criminal action.

   m. Discussing highly sensitive or confidential school department information in e-mail communications.

   n. Using the Auburn Public Schools' technology network to buy, sell or advertise anything.

   o. Using social networking sites, discussion groups, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of online conversation unless authorized in advance by the teacher and directly tied to a school assignment or classroom project.

   p. Using the Auburn Public Schools' technology network for gambling.

   q. Using the Auburn Public Schools' technology network for political campaigning purposes, including attempts to influence ballot questions or to promote or oppose a candidate for public office.

   r. Failing to log off the computer network at the conclusion of a work session or at the request of system administrators.

   s. Using the computer network for recreational purposes or activities relating to personal hobbies.

   t. Connecting any personal electronic device or computer, including but not limited to iPods, cell phones, Mp3 players, gaming devices, to the wired or wireless network without the consent of the technology department for educational use only.

3. The Auburn Public Schools assumes no responsibility for: