STUDENT INTERNET ACCESS - ACCEPTABLE USE REGULATIONS

The Internet is available for students in the Rockport Public Schools (RPS). RPS strongly believes in the educational value of the Internet, and sees the potential of the Internet to support curriculum and student learning and in this way to support its educational mission. Use of the Internet has been established at RPS for educational purposes only, not as a public access service, a public forum, for commercial use or for political lobbying. Internet access for students is provided to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

RPS realizes that while the Internet can provide many opportunities of sound educational value, the Internet also offers persons with illegal or unethical purposes another way to reach students, teachers and others, including parents. RPS has taken, and will continue to take, all reasonable precautions to restrict access to inappropriate materials that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of a school setting. However, RPS also realizes that access to a global network makes it nearly impossible to control all materials, and a user may discover inappropriate information when accessing such a network. RPS believes that the advantage of obtaining materials from the Internet outweighs the possibility that users may obtain material that is not consistent with the educational goals of RPS.

Students at the RPS will have access to the Internet, including World Wide Web resources. Electronic mail and access to newsgroups will be available on a limited basis. All of these services are available to students only under the direct supervision of a RPS staff member. Students must obtain the approval of their parent(s) or guardian(s) before access to the school's Internet resources can be granted. Students and parents must also read and sign the "Acceptable Use Policy" form below to indicate an understanding and acceptance of its contents. Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the RPS computer networks. The use of RPS networks is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. Students are advised never to access, keep or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see.

By signing the "Acceptable Use Policy" form the student agrees that the following actions (which are not inclusive) constitute unacceptable use of the RPS technology facilities, whether that use is initiated from school or any other site:

STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES POLICY
FILE: IJNDB

Introduction
The Rockport Public School District supports student and staff access to a variety of rich information resources. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship. Electronic information literacy skills are now fundamental to the preparation of citizens and future employees. The use of new tools and systems brings new responsibilities as well as opportunities. Integration of information technology into the curriculum will occur in all subject areas K-12, as is reasonably feasible. The District Acceptable Use Policies (AUP) shall be published in the schools’ student handbooks that have been approved by the School Committee, and filed with the Department of Education in compliance with MGL Chapter 71, Section 37H, and issued to students. Parents shall submit to the school the appropriate acknowledgement form, verifying that they have reviewed the contents of the handbook with their child. Additionally, the AUPs shall be published in staff and student handbooks and posted in the Policy Manual on the Rockport Public Schools website.

Services Provided to Students:

- The Rockport Public School District provides all students with a network account and password for the purpose of facilitating education.
- Students may access printers and print when given permission by the local school district personnel.
- Students have file storage space on RPS servers.
- Students have access to online collaboration tools and online file storage via rpk12s.org (Google for Education).
- Students have access to online course resources (if currently deployed by his/her teachers).

Note these services and resources are not the same as a private home Internet and e-mail accounts and therefore all actions performed, including information stored, accessed, viewed, or written, are logged, and accessible by the Administration. These actions are also legally discoverable and could be subpoenaed by a court of law. Therefore, the Rockport Public School District has the right to monitor, quarantine, backup, move, archive and/or delete, and access all electronic files, local or remote, on systems managed by the Rockport Public Schools. Students should have no expectation of privacy.

In accordance with law, the Rockport Public Schools (RPS) filter Internet content to prevent access to pornography and material that is otherwise inappropriate for minors. However, it is recognized that this and any filter alone is no guarantee that users will not be able to access Internet
resources which are profane, offensive, obscene, or otherwise objectionable. Students should report accidental or inappropriate sites to a teacher or administrator for blocking. Internet usage is logged and monitored for use consistent with the educational mission of the RPS.

Each member of the Rockport Public Schools community is expected to adhere to policies for appropriate use. Students of the Rockport Public Schools shall:

**Respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources.**
- Our network systems provide important access to educational resources. The destruction, vandalism, hacking, or damaging of data, networks, hardware, software, backend systems, or disruption of this or other resources used by the Rockport Public Schools is prohibited and may result in disciplinary and/or legal actions.
- Network and account security is the responsibility of all members of the Rockport School community. Any security risks should be reported to a teacher or technology administrator.
- Resources shall be used in a manner consistent with the mission of the Rockport Public Schools. Computers, electronic resources, and network bandwidth are shared limited resources and should be conserved and protected, as such.
- Devices not owned and managed by the Rockport Public Schools may not be connected to the Rockport Public Schools network without specific permission. Devices that disrupt the educational process or operation of the RPS are prohibited, will be removed, may be held and searched, and may result in disciplinary and/or legal actions.
- Students or guests may use the “Open” wireless network unless otherwise instructed. Please note that any device deemed as directly or indirectly disrupting the educational processes of the school or students may be held and searched until such time that the disruption is discovered, understood, and resolved.

**Respect and protect the intellectual property of others.**
- Do not infringe copyrights. You may not make illegal copies of music, games, movies, software, or other materials under copyright.
- Do not plagiarize other people’s work.
- Do not audio or video record lectures or school activities without permission from the faculty and/or students involved.
- Do not post pictures, audio, or video of lectures or school activities to the Internet without the permission of faculty and the parents of all students involved.

**Respect and protect the privacy of yourself and others.**
- Only use the network account assigned to you and do not give your RPS network credentials to anyone other than your parents.
- Do not view, use, copy passwords, data, or access networks to which you are not authorized.
- Protect your own and others’ privacy when using the Internet; do not distribute private information about yourself, or others, without your teachers’ or parents’ knowledge and approval.
- Be authentic; do not pretend to be someone else online. Respect and practice the principles of community.
- Communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful. Remember that anything you write online may be discoverable forever.
- Report inappropriate, threatening, or discomforting communication or materials to a teacher, other school district employee, and/or parent.
- Do not intentionally access, transmit, copy, or create material that violates the school’s respectful climate, such as messages that are threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass, as these may result in disciplinary and/or legal action.
- Do not intentionally transmit or implant computer viruses, macros, or any type of malicious code within the RPS network or hardware.
- Do not use any type of hardware device, network device, or software application designed to covertly capture data.
- Do not intentionally access, transmit, copy, or create material that is illegal, such as obscenity, pornography, stolen materials, illegal copies of copyrighted works, or use school resources to further other acts that are criminal, as these may result in disciplinary and/or legal action.
- Do not buy, sell, advertise, or otherwise conduct business, unless approved as a school project.

**Privacy:** The use of school IT resources varies greatly from personal home use. All actions including, but not limited to, information stored, accessed, viewed, or written are logged and accessible by the Administration. The RPS Administrative staff (principal/assistant principal) has the right to monitor, quarantine, backup, move, archive and/or delete, and accesses all electronic files, local or remote, on systems managed by the district with IT support, as necessary. RPS students should have no expectation or guarantee of privacy when using the school’s IT resources whether their use takes place during or outside school hours.

Consequences for Violation. Violation of any portion of this policy may result in disciplinary measures up to and including suspension and/or legal actions.