

ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE POLICY

The School Board provides a computer system, including the internet, to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. The term computer system includes hardware, software, data, drives, servers, mainframe and personal computers, the internet and other internal or external networks. All use of the Division's computer system must be (1) in support of education and/or research, or (2) for legitimate school business. Use of the computer system is a privilege, not a right. Any communication or material used on the computer system, including electronic mail or other files deleted from a user's account, may be monitored or read by school officials. The Division Superintendent shall establish administrative procedures, for the School Board's approval, containing the appropriate uses, ethics and protocol for the computer system. The procedures shall include:

- (1) a prohibition against use by division employees and students of the division's computer equipment and communications services for sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the Internet;
- (2) provisions, including the selection and operation of a technology protection measure for the division's computers having Internet access to (a) child pornography as set out in Va. Code § 18.2-374.1:1 or as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256; (b) obscenity as defined by Va. Code § 18.2-372 or 18 U.S.C. § 1460; and (c) material that the school division deems to be harmful to juveniles as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-390, material that is harmful to minors as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(G), and material that is otherwise inappropriate for minors;
- (3) provisions establishing that the technology protection measure is enforced during any use of the Division's computers by minors;
- (4) provisions establishing that the online activities of minors will be monitored;
- (5) provisions designed to protect the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- (6) provisions designed to prevent unauthorized online access by minors, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- (7) provisions prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- (8) a component of Internet safety for students that is integrated in the division's instructional program.

Use of the School Division's computer system shall be consistent with the educational or instructional mission or administrative function of the Division as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students. The Division's computer system is not a public forum. All use of the Giles County School Division's computer system shall be consistent with the School Board's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. The term computer system includes hardware, software, data, communication lines and devices, terminals, printers, CD-ROM devices, tape drives, servers, mainframe and personal computers, the internet and any other internal or external network.

Computer System Use - Terms and Conditions

1. **Acceptable Use.** Access to the Division's computer system shall be (1) for the purposes of education or research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Division or (2) for legitimate school business.
2. **Privilege.** The use of the Division's computer system is a privilege, not a right.
3. **Unacceptable Use.** Each user is responsible for his or her actions on the computer system. Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to:
 - using the network for any illegal or unauthorized activity, including violation of copyright or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any federal, state, or local law.
 - sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the computer system.
 - unauthorized downloading of software.
 - using the computer system for private financial or commercial purposes.
 - wastefully using resources, such as file space.
 - gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
 - posting material created by another without his or her consent.
 - submitting, posting, publishing or displaying any obscene, profane, threatening, illegal or other inappropriate material.
 - using the computer system while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
 - vandalizing the computer system, including destroying data by creating or spreading viruses or by other means.
 - intimidating, harassing, or coercing others.
 - threatening illegal or immoral acts.
4. **Network Etiquette.** Each user is expected to abide by generally accepted rules of etiquette, including the following:
 - Be polite.
 - Users shall not forge, intercept or interfere with electronic mail messages.
 - Use appropriate language. The use of obscene, lewd, profane, lascivious, threatening or disrespectful language is prohibited.
 - Users shall not post personal information other than directory information as defined in Policy JO Student Records about themselves or others.
 - Users shall respect the computer system's resource limits.
 - Users shall not post chain letters or download large files.

- Users shall not use the computer system to disrupt others.
- Users shall not modify or delete data owned by others.

5. Liability. The School Board makes no warranties for the computer system it provides. The School Board shall not be responsible for any damages to the user from use of the computer system, including loss of data, non-delivery or missed delivery of information, or service interruptions. The School Division denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the computer system. The user agrees to indemnify the School Board for any losses, costs or damages incurred by the School Board relating to or arising out of any violation of these procedures.

6. Security. Computer system security is a high priority for the school division. If an employee identifies a security problem, the employee shall notify the building principal or network system administrator immediately. If a student identifies a security problem, the student shall notify the teacher or school employee supervising the student immediately. All users shall keep their passwords confidential and shall follow computer virus protection procedures.

7. Vandalism. Intentional destruction of or interference with any part of the computer system through creating or downloading computer viruses or by any other means is prohibited. Any violation of this regulation shall result in loss of computer system privileges and may also result in appropriate disciplinary action, as determined by School Board policy, or legal action.

8. Charges. The School Division assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees as a result of using the computer system, including telephone or long-distance charges.

9. Electronic Mail (Includes Instant Messaging System). The School Division's electronic mail system is owned and controlled by the School Division. The School Division may provide electronic mail to aid students and staff in fulfilling their duties and as an education tool. Electronic mail is not private. Students' electronic mail will be monitored. The electronic mail of staff may be monitored and accessed by the School Division. Unauthorized access to an electronic mail account by any student or employee is prohibited. Users shall be held personally liable for the content of any electronic message they create. Downloading any file attached to an electronic message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file.

10. Enforcement. Software is installed on the division's computers having Internet access to filter or block internet access through such computers to child pornography and obscenity. The online activities of users may also be monitored manually. Any violation of these regulations shall result in loss of computer system privileges and may also result in appropriate disciplinary action, as determined by School Board policy, or legal action.

11. Internet Safety. The School Division provides teachers training for integrating Internet Safety concepts into instructional activities. Instructional personnel will teach and enforce Internet Safety concepts so students are able to describe the Internet as a cyber community, identify risks they may encounter, explain actions they may take to safeguard their identity, demonstrate respect for others and for intellectual property on the Internet, and identify appropriate behaviors as related to social networking, blogging, email/IM, and website design.

ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE AGREEMENT

Each child and his or her parent/guardian must sign this Agreement before being granted use of the School Division's computer system. Prior to signing this Agreement, read Policy and Regulation GAB/IIBE, Acceptable Computer System Use. If you have any questions about this policy or regulation, contact your child's principal.

STUDENT

I understand and agree to abide by the School Division's Acceptable Computer System Use Policy and Regulations. I understand that the School Division may access and monitor my use of the computer system, including my use of the internet, email and downloaded material, without prior notice to me. I further understand that should I violate the Acceptable Use Policy or Regulation, my computer system privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action and/or legal action may be taken against me.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student Name Printed _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I have read this Agreement and Policy and Regulation GAB/IIBE. I understand that access to the computer system is intended for educational purposes and the Giles County School Division has taken precautions to eliminate inappropriate material. I also recognize, however, that it is impossible for the School Division to restrict access to all inappropriate material and I will not hold the School Division responsible for information acquired on the computer system. I have discussed the terms of this agreement, policy and regulation with my child.

I grant permission for my child to use the computer system and for the School Division to issue an account for my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name Printed _____