

COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
FOR STUDENTS OF THE DIGHTON~REHOBOTH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

File: IJNDB-E-5

The Internet is a worldwide network of interconnected computers that allows users, including students, corporations, government agencies, authors, doctors, and scientists to share information with one another. The Internet also 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 used for educational purposes. With such great potential for education also comes 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District computer network, which includes World Wide Web access and electronic mail capability, to use this resource safely and appropriately.

The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District community are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or school hallway. 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District respects each family's right to decide whether or not their child will have independent access to the World Wide Web and an individual e-mail account at school.

For students to be permitted to gain independent access to the web or individual e-mail accounts, 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 or individual e-mail accounts. If the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District does not receive a signed user agreement and, if applicable, a signed parental permission form, students will not gain independent access to the web or individual e-mail accounts, but they may still have exposure to the Internet during classroom instruction or library research exercises.

The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District. 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District and could also result in criminal prosecution where applicable. The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District will cooperate fully with law enforcement officials in any investigation relating to misuse of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District computer network.
2. Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy include, but are not limited to, the following conduct:
 - a. 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 that 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 Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District to any civil or criminal action.
- m. Discussing sensitive or confidential school department information in e-mail communications.
- n. Using the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District technology network to buy, sell, or advertise anything.
- o. Using discussion groups or "chat rooms."
- p. Using the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District technology network for gambling.
- q. Using the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District 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.
3. The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District assumes no responsibility for:
- a. any unauthorized charges of fees, including telephone charges, long distance charges, per minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.
 - b. any financial obligations arising out of unauthorized use of the system for the purchase of products or services.
 - c. any cost, liability, or damages caused by a user's violation of these guidelines.
 - d. any information or materials that are transferred through the network.
4. The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District makes no guarantee, implied or otherwise, regarding the reliability of the data connection. The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District shall not be liable for any loss or corruption of data resulting while using the network.
5. All messages and information created, sent or retrieved on the network are the property of Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District. Electronic mail messages and other use of electronic resources by students and staff are also the property of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District and should not be considered confidential. Copies of all information created, sent, or retrieved, including but not limited to web sites visited (cache files), are stored on the computer network's back-up files. While the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District does not plan to review cache files or back-up files on a regular basis, it reserves the right to access and monitor all messages and files on the computer system as it deems necessary and appropriate in the ordinary course of its business for purposes including, but not limited to, ensuring proper use of resources, investigating allegations of improper use, and conducting routine network maintenance. Where appropriate, communications including text and images may be disclosed to law enforcement or other third parties without prior consent of the sender or receiver.

6. The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District strongly condemns the illegal distribution (otherwise known as pirating) of software. Any users caught transferring such files through the network, and any whose accounts are found to contain such illegal files, shall immediately have their accounts permanently revoked. In such event, the user's network access will be limited to directly supervised use during classroom instruction. In addition, all users should be aware that software piracy is a federal offense and is punishable by a fine or imprisonment.
7. Many kinds of materials eventually find their way to the network. If a user finds materials that are inappropriate while using the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District Technology Network, he/she shall refrain from downloading this material and shall not identify or share the material. It should be understood that the transfer of certain kinds of materials is illegal and punishable by fine or imprisonment.
8. Should a user, while using the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District Technology Network, encounter any material that he/she feels may constitute a threat against the safety of fellow students, staff members, or the property of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District, that user is obligated to report his/her discovery of such material to a teacher or to his/her principal.
9. The Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District administration reserves the right to amend this policy at any time without prior notice.

COMPUTER NETWORK, INTERNET AND E-MAIL
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
FOR STUDENTS OF THE DIGHTON~REHOBOTH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

USER CONTRACT

File: IJNDB-E-6

I agree to follow the rules set forth in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that if I break any of these rules, my school e-mail account, if I have one, may be taken away from me. I also understand that, if I break any of these rules, I may not be allowed to do independent research on the World Wide Web. I also understand that if I break any rules set forth in the Acceptable Use Policy, I may also be disciplined according to school rules. I also agree to pay my school back for any money it loses because of any violation by me of the rules set forth in the Acceptable Use Policy.

Name of Student: _____

School: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

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PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

File: IJNDB-E-6

1. I have read the Computer Network, Internet, and E-Mail Acceptable Use Policy for the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District.
2. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes.
3. I recognize that some controversial material exists on the Internet.
4. I understand that the level of my child's independent access to the Internet depends on my child's grade level, as explained in the Acceptable Use Policy.
5. I give permission for my son/daughter to have the access to the Internet that corresponds with his/her grade level.
6. I have discussed with my son/daughter his/her responsibilities regarding the use of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District Network and Internet access.
7. My son/daughter understands and agrees to follow the Acceptable Use Policy of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District.
8. I understand that any violation by my son/daughter of the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy may result in the suspension or revocation of his/her e-mail account or independent access to the World Wide Web and may also result in school disciplinary action.
9. I will not hold the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District liable or responsible for any materials my son/daughter accesses, acquires, or transmits via the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District computer network and/or Internet connection.
10. I agree to indemnify the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District relating to or arising out of any violation by my son/daughter of the Acceptable Use Policy.

Student's Name: _____

School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

