

# Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy for Farwell ISD

## Introduction

It is the policy of Farwell ISD to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254 (h)].

The district's electronic communications system, including its network access to the Internet, is primarily for educational purposes.

Electronic communications systems are not confidential and can be monitored at any time to ensure appropriate use.

Students who are authorized to use the system are required to abide by the provisions of the district's communications systems policy and administrative procedures. Failure to do so can result in suspension or termination of privileges and may lead to disciplinary action. Parents with questions about computer use and data management can contact the district technology director at 806-481-9260.

## Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0819/FCC-11-125A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0819/FCC-11-125A1.pdf)

## Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protections measures may be disabled or in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

## Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Farwell ISD online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other

forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

### **Supervision and Monitoring**

It shall be the responsibility of **all members of the Farwell ISD staff** to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or designated representatives.

### **Availability of Access**

Access to the District's electronic communication system(s) is a privilege, not a right. All users shall be required to acknowledge receipt and understanding of all administrative regulations governing use of the system(s) and shall agree in writing to comply with such regulations and guidelines. Noncompliance with applicable regulations will result in disciplinary action consistent with District policies and regulations. (Student Code of Conduct) Violations of law may result in criminal prosecutions as well as disciplinary action by the District.

### **Disclaimer of Liability**

The District shall not be liable for the users; inappropriate use of the District's electronic communication resources or violations of copyright restrictions, users' mistakes or negligence, or costs incurred by users. The District shall not be responsible for ensuring the accuracy or usability of any information found on the Internet. The Superintendent or designee will oversee the District's electronic communication system(s). Oversight of the posting of official district, campus, or division/department materials on the District's electronic communication system(s) will be the responsibility of the superintendent, principal, or division/department supervisor or designee. The District's system(s) will be used only for administrative and instructional purposes consistent with the District's mission and goals.

### **Use of Electronic Media by Students**

Farwell ISD will address the education of minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and chat rooms, cyberbullying awareness and response.

### **Appropriate Uses**

Appropriate uses are: communication with appropriate websites, schools, organization's databases, libraries and computer services around the world. These will be teacher initiated for research purposes.

## **Ethical Rules Concerning Internet Use**

1. Be Polite
2. Use appropriate language.
3. Do not reveal or request personal information.
4. Do not use systems in a way that would disrupt Network use by others.
5. Respect the intellectual property of other users and information providers.

## **Inappropriate Use**

- Using the system for any illegal purpose (e.g., intimidation, pornography, plagiarism)
- Accessing another person's files, folders or disks without teacher permission
- Downloading or using copyrighted information without permission from the copyright holder, including software piracy.
- Posting messages or accessing materials that are abusive, obscene, threatening, harassing, damaging to another person's reputation, or illegal.
- Posting personal information about myself or others such as addresses, phone numbers or photos.
- Changing computer settings, including filters and desktops
- Wasting or damaging school resources, including computer hardware, wiring, paper, ink, etc.
- Accessing personal email, social networking, and file tampering unless authorized and supervised by the instructor with time, location, and duration specified.
- Playing games

## **Consequences For Inappropriate Use**

- Suspension of access to the computers and Internet (loss of use in one area or class may result in loss of privileges across the campus); or
- Other legal action, in accordance with applicable laws.

## **Disclaimer**

The District's system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The District does not make any warranties, whether expressed or implied, with respect to any services provided by the system(s) and any information or software contained therein. The District does not warrant that the functions or services performed by, or that the information or software contained on the system will meet the system user's requirements, or that the system will be uninterrupted or error-free, so that defects will be corrected. Opinions, advice, services, and all other information expressed by system users, information providers, service providers, or other third party individuals in the system are those of the providers and not the District. The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to misuse of the District's electronic communication system(s).

## **Adoption**

The Board of Farwell ISD adopted the Internet Safety Policy at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on February 13, 2012.

**Farwell Independent School District Agreement for Internet Safety and Acceptable Use of the District's Technology Systems**

I have read the District's electronic communications system policy and administrative regulations and agree to abide by their provisions. In consideration for the privilege of using the District's electronic communications system and in consideration for having access to the public networks, I hereby release the District, its operators, and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my use of or inability to use the, the system, including, without limitation, the type of damages identified in the District's policy and administrative regulations.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Work Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date Returned \_\_\_\_\_