

COMPUTER/ON-LINE SERVICES (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)

Technology can greatly enhance the instructional program, as well as the efficiency of the Educational Service Center. The Governing Board recognizes that careful planning is essential to ensure the successful, equitable and cost-effective implementation of technology-based materials, equipment, systems and networks. Computers and use of the Educational Service Center network or on-line services support learning and enhance instruction, as well as assist in administration. Computer networks allow people to interact with many computers; the internet allows people to interact with hundreds of thousands of networks. All computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this policy and the guidelines below will result in the revocation of the user's access privilege. Unacceptable uses of the computer/network include but are not limited to:

1. violating the conditions of State and Federal law dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information;
2. using profanity, obscenity or other language which may be offensive to another user; or intended to harass, intimidate or bully other users;
3. accessing personal social networking websites for non-educational purposes;
4. reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author's prior consent;
5. copying commercial software and/or other material in violation of copyright law;
6. using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
7. "hacking" or gaining unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or attempting to gain such unauthorized access;
8. accessing and/or viewing inappropriate material and;
9. downloading of freeware or shareware programs.

The Superintendent/designee shall develop a plan to address the short-and long-term technology needs and provide for compatibility of resources among school sites, offices and other operations. As a basis for this plan, he/she shall examine and compare the costs and benefits of various resources and shall identify the blend of technologies and level of service necessary to support the instructional program.

Because access to on-line services provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world, users (and parents of users who are under 18 years old) must understand that neither the school nor the Educational Service Center can control the content of the information available on these systems. Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes offensive.

The Governing Board does not condone the use of such materials. Employees, students and parents of students must be aware that the privileges to access on-line services are withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or who do not follow the rules and regulations established. A user's agreement is signed to indicate the user's acknowledgment of the risks and regulations for computer/on-line services use. The Educational Service Center has implemented technology-blocking measures to prevent students from accessing inappropriate material or materials considered to be harmful to minors on school computers. The Educational Service Center has also contracted services for monitoring a running log of Internet activity, recording which sites a particular user has visited through NWOCA.

"Harmful to minors" is defined as any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:

1. taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to an offensive interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
2. depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts or lewd exhibition of genitals or;
3. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

Annually, a student who wishes to have computer network and Internet access during the school year must read the acceptable use and Internet safety policy and submit a properly signed agreement form. Students and staff are asked to sign a new agreement each year after reviewing the policies and regulations of the Educational Service Center.

[Adoption Date: 3/18/04]

[Amended Date: 7/19/05]

[Amended Date: 2/22/11]

LEGAL REFS.: U. S. Const. Art. I, Section 8
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC 1232g et seq.
Children's Internet Protection Act; (P.L. 106-554, HR 4577, 2000,
114 Stat 2763)
ORC 1329.54-1329.67
3313.20
3319.321

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
ACA, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
ACAA, Sexual Harassment
IB, Academic Freedom
IIA, Instructional Materials
JFC, Student Conduct
Staff Policy Books

COMPUTER NETWORK AGREEMENT FORM

I hereby apply for a student/employee account on the Wood County Educational Service Center computer network:

Circle one: student employee

Name: _____

School: _____

Home address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home phone: _____

I have read and I understand this computer policy and its guidelines and regulations and agree to abide by all of the rules and standards for acceptable use stated therein. I further state that all information provided for the creation of this account is truthful and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parental Release Form (for students under 18 years of age)

I / We, _____, the parent(s) of _____

have read and understand the computer policy and its guidelines and regulations and we agree to its terms and conditions. We confirm our child's intentions to abide by the terms and conditions therein, and we agree to supervise our child's use of the computer network from home or outside of the classroom.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

[Adoption Date: 3/18/04]