

4510-R Technology-Internet-Usage

Please read this document carefully before signing.

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the Williamston Community Schools. We are very pleased to have Internet access, as we believe it offers valuable, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in the district by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

For those not familiar with the term, the Internet is an “electronic highway” connecting millions of computers all over the world, and millions of individual users. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with users throughout the globe. In addition, the system will be used to increase school and District communication, enhance productivity, and assist employees in upgrading their skills through greater exchange of information with their peers. The system will also assist us in sharing information with the local community, including parents, social service agencies, government agencies, and businesses.

With access to computers and people from around the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Families should be warned that some material obtained via the Net may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. We have taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information, either by accident or deliberately. We firmly believe, however, that the benefits to students from online access far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with our educational goals.

The purpose of this agreement is to ensure that use of Internet resources is consistent with our stated mission, goals, and objectives. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the students and faculty who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. If a user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could be denied in accord with the rules and regulations discussed with each user during Internet training sessions.

To gain access to the Internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicate(s) the party(ies) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

Internet—Terms and Conditions

1. Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer networks, just as they are in a classroom, or a school hallway. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.
2. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege—not a right. That access entails responsibility. Inappropriate use will result in a suspension or cancellation of Internet privileges. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the administrators may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.

3. Users are expected to abide by their generally accepted rules of network etiquette and conduct themselves in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner while online.

4. Users are not permitted to use the computing resources for commercial purposes, product advertising, political lobbying, or political campaigning.

5. Users are not permitted to transmit, receive, submit or publish any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, offensive, or illegal material.

6. Users are not permitted to use computing resources for harassment, discriminatory remarks, bullying or other aggressive behavior.

7. Physical or electronic tampering with computer resources is not permitted. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks intentionally will result in cancellation of privileges.

8. Users must respect all copyright laws that protect software owners, artists, and writers. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated.

9. Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem in the school's computers, network, or Internet connection, you must notify a system administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to others. Using someone else's password or trespassing in another's folders, work, or files without written permission is prohibited. Attempts to log onto the Internet as anyone but yourself may result in cancellation of user privileges.

10. Williamston Community Schools makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. We assume no responsibility or liability for any phone charges, line costs or usage fees, nor for any damages a user may suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. We specifically deny any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

11. All communication and information accessible via the computer resources shall be regarded as private property. However, people who operate the system may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.

Any violations may result in a loss of computer access, as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Users are considered subject to all local, state, and federal laws.

Adopted: August 14, 2000

Revised: March 19, 2012