



Elmore County Public Schools

Responsible Use Guidelines for Students

With the use of technology, Elmore County Public Schools (ECPS) is expanding learning access for students, staff, parents, and the entire Elmore County community. With this opportunity comes the obligation for appropriate and responsible use.

We in the Elmore County Public Schools district are pleased to be able to provide our students, staff, and guests with access to computer technology, including access to the Internet and a robust network. We are dedicated to the access and support of appropriate technology which unlocks our potential and connects us locally and globally.

The operation of technology in the district relies heavily on the proper conduct of the users. Every ECPS user has the responsibility to respect and protect the rights of every other user in our community. ECPS users are expected to act in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner, in accordance with the missions and purposes of the resources they use, and with the laws of Alabama and the United States.

Adherence to the following is necessary for continued access to ANY and ALL technology resources while at school:

Users must respect and protect the privacy of others by:

- Using only assigned accounts/passwords and not sharing login/password information with others.
- Only viewing, copying, or using passwords, data, or networks to which they are authorized.
- Refraining from distributing private information about others or themselves (such as full name, date of birth, address, phone number, Social Security Number, etc.) on blogs, web forms, or other websites using the ECPS network.

Users must respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources by:

- Observing all district Internet filters and posted network security practices.
- Reporting security risks or violations to a teacher or administrator.
- Not accessing data, networks, hardware, software, or other resources that do not belong to them, without clear permission of the owner.
- Not making any changes to settings in hardware, software, or the network.
- Not vandalizing data, networks, hardware, or other resources. Vandalism is defined as any deliberate attempt to harm or destroy data or property of another user or ECPS, the Internet/Intranet, or other networks.
- Conserving, protecting, and sharing these resources with other users.
- Notifying a staff member or administrator of computer or network malfunctions.
- Not installing software onto computers without appropriate approval.

Users must respect and protect the intellectual property of others by:

- Following copyright laws (not making illegal copies of music, games, or movies).
- Citing sources when using others' work (not plagiarizing).

Users must respect and practice the principles of the community by:

- Communicating only in ways that are kind and respectful.
- Reporting threatening or discomfoting materials to a teacher or administrator.
- Not intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that violates the district's code of conduct (such as messages/content that is pornographic, threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
- Respect the rights of others by refraining from cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation in messages, blogs, web content, social media, and other electronic mediums.

- Not intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that is illegal (such as obscenity, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works) through messages, blogs, web content, social media, and other electronic mediums.
- Not using district resources to further other acts that are criminal or violate the district's code of conduct.
- Avoiding spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings.
- Refraining from buying, selling, advertising, lobbying, or otherwise conducting business, unless approved as a school project.
- Only using the Internet and other electronic resources that are in support of education and with the educational goals, objectives, and policies of Elmore County Public Schools.

Users may, if in accordance with the above guidelines:

- Design and post web pages and other material from school resources. Students may have the opportunity to participate in electronic publishing. From time to time, your child's school or the district may wish to publish examples of student projects, quotes, photographs, student recognitions, and/or videos that include your child. Student work or images published on school web pages may include the student's name and the use of personal information will follow the guidelines set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) section of the code of conduct. Any information about ECPS students or activities, even if hosted on outside servers, should follow ECPS web posting procedures. The district respects the rights of parents to restrict their children from publishing on the Internet and will secure parent permission for the current school year. Parents will be required to sign a form if they choose to deny having student work, pictures, and/or student's name appear on the Internet/Intranet.
- Communicate electronically via tools such as email, chat, text, or document-sharing resources. All accounts with third-party providers will be used for school projects and to support the mastery of effective and proper communications. ECPS cannot and does not guarantee the security of electronic files located in external repositories. Although these providers have content filters in place, the district cannot ensure that users will not be exposed to unsolicited information. All student confidentiality precautions should be taken when using third-party resources.
- Participate in videoconferencing activities including virtual field trip connections with entities such as zoos, museums, universities, and government agencies. Classes may also participate in point-to-point connections with other classrooms around the district and around the world or multi-point conferences connecting many classrooms. In a distance-learning environment, the teacher and students' voices, physical presence, and participation in classroom activities will be transmitted to other distance-learning sites. These events may or may not be recorded.
- Use district resources for any educational purpose.

Consequences for Violation

School computer systems are for use by authorized individuals only. Any unauthorized access to these systems is prohibited and is subject to criminal and civil penalties. Use of any other network or computing resources must be consistent with the rules appropriate to that network.

Use of the district network is not a right, but a privilege, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of that privilege, disciplinary action, and/or prosecution. Prior to participation, a potential network user will receive information pertaining to the proper use of the network and sign a user agreement. School and district administrators will decide what constitutes inappropriate use of the network and their decision is final. Violations will be dealt with in accordance with the Elmore County Public Schools' Student Handbook & Code of Conduct and/or local, state, or federal law.

Supervision and Monitoring

Information networks are "public places" and user actions are visible to others on the network. Elmore County Public Schools has the right to monitor network use to ensure that the network continues to function properly for all of its users. Anyone using electronic networks expressly consents to such monitoring. Monthly reports of Internet use are generated and may be shared with campus administrators. Prosecution and/or termination of user privileges will occur without warning.

As required by the federal Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), ECPS Internet access shall have a filtering device or software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or to any material deemed harmful to minors as defined by CIPA and as determined by the Superintendent or designee. In the classroom, student access to and use of the Internet will be under teacher direction and will be monitored as any other classroom activity; however, it is impossible to control all materials on a global network and users may encounter inappropriate information. Even with filtering the school district cannot prevent the possibility that some users may access material that is not consistent with the educational mission, goals, and policies of the school district.

Warranties

Elmore County Public Schools and joint providers of the network make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services provided. ECPS will not be responsible for any damage suffered while using the system. These damages include, but are not limited to, loss of data, delays, non-deliveries, service interruptions caused by the system, or service interruptions caused by errors or omissions of the user. The district specifically disclaims responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through Internet connections. Although the Board claims ownership of its various technology resources, all user-generated data, including email content and digital images, is implicitly understood to be representative of the author’s individual point of view and not that of the school or school system. Students and their parents must be aware that Elmore County Public Schools cannot assume any liability arising out of the illegal or inappropriate use of technology resources.

Accessing the District WiFi Network

The district believes technology is a powerful tool that enhances learning and enables students to access a vast amount of academic information. The district’s goal is to increase student access to digital tools and facilitate immediate access to technology-based information, much the way that students utilize pen and paper. To this end, the district will open a wireless network through which students in specific age groups will be able to connect technology devices for instructional activities. Students using district-owned or personal technology devices must follow the guidelines stated in this document and the BYOT Procedures (http://bit.ly/ECPS_BYOT) while on school property, attending any school-sponsored activity, or using the ECPS network.

- High School – Students are allowed to use district or personal technology devices that can access the Internet for educational purposes as determined by the classroom teacher. Students will be allowed to use the device between classes and in the cafeteria setting in a digitally responsible manner.
- Middle School – Students are allowed to use district or personal technology devices that can access the Internet for educational purposes as determined by the campus and/or classroom teacher. Students will not be allowed to use the devices during passing periods or in the cafeteria, or in any classroom without the express permission of the teacher.
- Elementary – Students in grades K-5 are allowed to use district technology devices for academic classroom use as determined by the classroom teacher.

When utilizing the district WiFi network, students are expected to adhere to the following:

- The district is not responsible for any content accessed by users who bypass the district Internet filter by connecting to the Internet via their personal cellular network (i.e., 3G, 4G, LTE, etc.), instead of through the district WiFi.
- Users are responsible for backing up their personal data and other important files regularly.
- Those who use district-owned and maintained technologies to access the Internet at home are responsible for the set-up and cost of home Internet service.

Expectations for Use of District-Issued Technology Devices

Responsible use of district-issued technology devices is the same as the use of classroom and lab computers that belong to the school--it is ethical, respectful, academically honest, and supportive of student learning. Each user has the responsibility to respect others in the school community and on the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. General student and employee behavior standards, including those prescribed in applicable board policies, the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct, and other regulations and school rules, apply to the use of the Internet and other school technological resources.

Students who are issued district-owned and maintained devices will be asked to sign a contract agreeing to district guidelines.

Users of school district technology resources are expected to respect school district property and be responsible in using the equipment. Users are to follow all instructions regarding maintenance or care of the equipment. Users may be held responsible for any loss or damage to devices while under their control. The school district is responsible for any routine maintenance or standard repairs to school system devices.

Use of Personal Technology Devices

Use of all personal electronic devices—including smartphones, laptops, tablets, readers, handheld devices, storage devices, etc.—used on district property or attached to the district network is subject to all guidelines of Responsible Use Guidelines, BYOT Procedures, and the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct. A laptop, tablet, or phone may belong to the user but the network belongs to ECPS. Therefore, all ECPS network rules apply. If approved personal devices disrupt network operations, ECPS has the right to discontinue future use and the user may be liable for restitution for damages and/or disciplinary action.

The responsibility to keep the personal technology secure rests with the individual owner. ECPS is not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. The district cannot replace or provide financial restitution for any stolen or damaged personal technological device.

Furthermore, users must agree to the following conditions:

- Personal electronic devices cannot be used to bypass the district internet filter. Internet access is filtered by the district on personal devices in the same manner as District-owned equipment. If network access is needed, connection to the filtered, wireless network provided by the district is required. Devices that utilize their own personal cellular network (i.e., 3G, 4G, LTE, etc.), cannot be monitored through district resources. Students using cellular service to bypass the district filter may be subject to disciplinary action.
- Although the District provides the ability for students to bring their personal electronic devices to school, a student will not be required to bring a personal electronic device as a factor in grading or assessing student work. Students who do not have access to personal electronic devices will be provided with a comparable District or campus-owned device on which to complete the assignment OR given similar assignments that do not require access to electronic devices.
- All personal devices must be in silent mode while on school campuses.
- Each user is responsible for his/her own device: set-up, maintenance, charging, and security. District personnel will not support, diagnose, or repair personal devices.
- Personal technology must be charged prior to bringing it to school and must run off its own battery while at school.
- Technology may not be used to cheat on assignments or tests, or for non-instructional purposes in the classroom.
- Students are prohibited from trading or selling personal devices to other students while on school property including buses or attending any school-sponsored activity.
- Personal devices should not be used to record, transmit, or post photographic images or video of a person, or persons for non-instructional purposes while on school property including buses, or attending any school-sponsored activity. on campus during school activities and/or hours
- Personal devices may only be used to access files, applications, or internet sites that are relevant to the classroom curriculum. Non-instructional games are not permitted.
- Personal electronic devices are only to be used for educational purposes at the direction and under the supervision of a classroom teacher. Although the district provides the ability to access electronic resources on personal electronic devices, the use of personal electronic devices during the school day is at the discretion of teachers and other campus personnel.

- The teacher and campus administrators have the right to prohibit the use of personal electronic devices at certain times or during designated activities (i.e., campus presentations, theatrical performances, guest speakers, etc.) that occur on campus.
- An administrator may examine a student's personal telecommunication device and search its contents, in accordance with disciplinary guidelines and the laws of the State of Alabama.
- Printing from personal technology will not be possible at school.
- Use of personal devices to make phone calls in common areas and/or after school hours will be determined by the campus administration.

In addition, ECPS is

NOT responsible for stolen or damaged personal technology devices,
NOT responsible for the maintenance or repair of any personal technology, and
NOT responsible for any costs incurred due to the use of personal technology.



Elmore County Public Schools Student Responsible Use Guidelines

We _____ and _____
(Printed parent name) (printed student name)

have read the Responsible Use Guidelines, understand it, and agree to adhere to the principles and procedures detailed within. We understand and accept the conditions stated in the Responsible Use Guidelines and agree to hold blameless and release from any liability Elmore County Public Schools, the sponsoring school, its subcontractors, and employees. We understand that the Responsible Use Guidelines may be revised by the district to respond to the changing environment of web-based computer technology; we agree to any revised conditions of the RUG as updated on the district website. (<http://bit.ly/ECPSrug>)

We understand that a network user is expected to use good judgment and follow the Responsible Use Guidelines printed in the code of conduct published by the district. We further understand that any student who violates any provision of the Responsible Use Guidelines may lose network privileges on the ECPS network and may be disciplined, as appropriate, for violations of the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct.

We also understand that displaying work on the Internet makes the work available for viewing by any person around the world that has Internet access.

Parents signature: _____ Date: _____

Students signature: _____ Name of School: _____

NOTE: If this form is not returned to the school, it will be assumed that permission is granted. You must specifically contact your student's school to deny any access.