

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Georgia Board of Ed. Rule 160-4-8-3
Atkinson County Schools
Internet Acceptable Use Policy
2023-2024

1. General

Potential opportunities for educational benefit. Even though Atkinson County Schools has a blocking system to control the content of material on the Internet we are not responsible for students going to sites that have not been assigned to them and may contain inappropriate material.

Because pornography, defamatory or inaccurate information, or information that is offensive may be accessed through the Internet or other on-line services, and because unlawful or inappropriate student communication may serve as a basis for criminal and/or civil liability, it is necessary that parents or other responsible adults provide informed consent to student access to telecommunication networks.

2. School Control

The principal of each school that affords students telecommunication network access shall cause accurate records to be maintained that include a consent and waiver form signed by a parent or other responsible adult for each student who is afforded telecommunication access.

3. Physical Monitoring

The classroom teacher will monitor all telecommunication access. Assignments will reflect educational objectives established by the teacher.

4. Termination of Access

The principal of each school that affords student telecommunication access shall cause termination of individual student access if a student graduates, transfers from the school, drops out of school, or violates the consent or waiver described in Section 4 (Parental Consent and Waiver).

5. Parental Consent and Waiver

Prior to affording individual student telecommunication access, a Consent and Waiver form must be signed by the student and parent(s) or guardian(s). The parental consent form gives students consent to use the Internet for educational purposes only for their school career at Atkinson County High School (grades 8-12) unless a parent or administrator revokes this use.

Atkinson County Schools believes that the benefits to educators and students from access to the Internet and other on-line services, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, far exceed any disadvantages of access. But, ultimately, the parent(s) and guardian(s) of students are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that the students should follow. To that end, Atkinson County Schools supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

Although Atkinson County Schools provide a blocking system, we cannot control all the information available on the Internet. Sites accessible via the Internet may provide information that contains pornography, is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While the District's intent is to make Internet and other telecommunications resources available to further its educational goals and objectives, parents should be aware that student account holders may have the ability to access unacceptable materials if they disregard the school's and District's access limitations stated below.

The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) must understand that student access to the School District Network is being developed to support the District's educational responsibilities and mission. The specific conditions and services being offered will change from time to time. In addition, Atkinson County Schools makes no warranties with respect to network service, and it specifically assumes no responsibilities for:

1. The content of any advice or information received by a student from a source outside the District, or any costs or charges incurred as a result of seeing or accepting such advice.
2. Any costs, liability or damages caused by the way the student chooses to use his/her network access.
3. Any consequences of service interruptions or changes, even if these disruptions arise from circumstances under the control of the District.

Forms must be read by parents and children.

I will limit my use of telecommunications in school to the educational objectives established by my teachers.

☞ I will not retrieve or send unethical, illegal, immoral, or simply inappropriate or unacceptable information of any type. (i.e.: Chat rooms, e-mail, or instant messaging.)

☞ I will follow the rules of network etiquette, which include the use of appropriate language and polite responses. I will not use abusive language of any type, including swearing and name-calling.

☞ I will not share my or other's home address, phone number, or picture with another user for any purpose.

☞ I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online.

☞ I understand that information received on-line is private property, unless specified. I will not plagiarize information received in any form.

☞ I will not attempt to bypass the security built into the system, and I recognize that doing so will result in immediate cancellation of my privileges.

☞ I will not interfere with or disrupt network users, services or equipment. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, "hacking", distribution of unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer viruses, and using a network to make unauthorized entry to any other machine accessible via a network.

☞ I will print to my local printer

☞ I will not copy or download any material on any system connected to the School System's hardware/software.

☞ I will not copy or download copyrighted material to any system connected to the School System's hardware/software or to any disk.

☞ I will obey all copyright laws.

☞ I will not use telecommunications access provided by Atkinson County Schools for illegal purposes of any kind.

☞ I understand that I have to have an Internet form from my classroom teacher before I can have access to the Internet in the media center.

☞ I will not use telecommunications access to transmit threatening, obscene, or harassing materials. By signing this waiver and consent, I understand and agree that Atkinson County Schools will not be held responsible if I participate in such activities.

I understand my responsibilities as a user of telecommunications. I have read the above rules and realize that any infraction will cancel my user privileges and may result in further disciplinary action, including suspension from school.

Student signature: _____

Date: _____