**Extracted from Handbook located on the Wilcox County School Web site:**

**INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY: IFBGA**

The Board of Education believes that the use of the Internet in instructional program is an educational tool, which facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing and access to information. Due to the complex nature of accessible networks and the magnitude of potential information available to anyone utilizing the Internet, the Board believes comprehensive guidelines are warranted in order to serve the educational needs of students.

It shall be the policy of the Wilcox County Board of Education that the school system shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying “technology protection measure,” as that term is defined in Section 1703(b) (1) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000; and

2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in Section 1703(b)

3. (1) and (2) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to: a) Provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web

b) Promote the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications

c) Prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unauthorized activities by minors online;

d) Prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and

e) Restrict minors’ access to materials “harmful to minors,” as that term is defined in Section 1703(b) (2) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000.

**INTERNET SAFETY GUIDELINES and ACCEPTABLE USE:**

The Wilcox County School District is pleased to make available to students access to interconnected computer systems within the District and to the Internet, the worldwide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities. The school district has made a significant investment to ensure that every classroom and student has access to the Internet. Access to the school district’s computer systems and the Internet is provided for educational purposes and research that is consistent with the school district’s educational mission and goals. In order for the school district to be able to continue to make its computer network and Internet access available, every student must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access and practice Internet Responsibility. Students

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must understand that the use of the school district’s computer network and Internet access is a privilege, not a right. Misuse may jeopardize those privileges and subject the student to potential disciplinary and legal action.

Wilcox County School District will enforce the following Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Guidelines. Upon reading the guidelines, each student must sign the Internet Network Access Agreement before they will be given the opportunity to enjoy Internet access at school. If a student is under the age of 18, his or her parents or legal guardian must also read and sign the agreement. The school district will not provide access to any student who fails to obtain the required signature on the agreement. Below are the provisions and guidelines you agree to comply with and uphold. If you have any questions about these provisions, you should contact Lynn Dale, Technology Director. Anyone violating these guidelines shall be subject to, at least, the revocation of privileges.

I. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The act of signing the Internet Network Access Agreement signifies your agreement to follow not only the rules in these guidelines, but also your agreeing to refrain from any other misuse of the computer network that is not included in the guidelines but has the effect of harming another or his or her property. Students and their parents will be responsible for compensating the school district for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the district relating to or arising out of the misuse of the school’s network.

II. TERM OF PERMITTED USE

A student who submits to the school, as directed a properly signed agreement and follows the guidelines to which she or he has agreed will have computer network and Internet access during the course of the school year only. Students will be asked to sign a new agreement each year during which they are students in the school district before they are given access to the Internet.

III. ACCEPTABLE USES

The school district is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet for only educational purposes and research consistent with the school district’s educational mission and goals. If you are unsure about whether a particular activity is educational or consistent with the school’s mission, you may consult with your teacher to help you decide if a use is appropriate.

IV. UNACCEPTABLE USES

Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of the guidelines are the following:

A. Accessing, sending or posting materials or communications that are: a. Damaging to another’s reputation

b. Abusive

c. Obscene

d. Sexually oriented

e. Threatening

f. Contrary to the school’s policy on harassment

g. Illegal

B. The posting of pictures, videos or links that are taken on school property without administrator approval is strictly prohibited. Administrators will have discretion as to consequences, depending upon the content.

C. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violations of copyright or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of Federal and State laws and regulations

D. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain

E. Wastefully using resources (i.e.: game playing via the Internet is strictly prohibited at the Wilcox County School System)

F. Utilizing any software having the purpose of damaging the school district’s system or other user’s system

G. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities

H. Invading the privacy of others

H. Using another user’s password or account or sharing your password or account login information

I. Posting material authorized or created by another without his or her consent

J. Posting of anonymous messages

K. Using the network for commercial or private advertising

L. Forging of electronic mail messages

M. Attempting to read, delete, copy or modify the electronic mail of other system users and deliberately interfering with the ability of other system users to send or receive electronic mail

N. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked

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O. Using the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers and other staff and generally accepted network etiquette

P. Making use of Internet chat rooms or instant messaging programs.

V. INTERNET SAFETY A. Individual Responsibility of Parents and User: All users and their parents or guardians are advised that due to the nature of the Internet, it is extremely difficult for the Board of Education to completely regulate and monitor the information received or sent by students. Students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet. Parents are the best guides as to which material should not be accessed. Therefore, parents must participate and communicate their own expectations to their student regarding materials on the Internet.

B. Personal Safety: Be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your full name, home address or home telephone number. Do not arrange an in-person meeting with someone you “meet” on the computer network or Internet without your parent’s permission.

C. “Hacking” and Other Illegal Activities: It is a violation of these guidelines to use the school’s computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access.

D. Active Restriction Measures: The school district, either by itself or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technical means, to ensure that the students are not accessing such depictions or any other materials, which are inappropriate for minors.

VI. PRIVACY -Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for your education. The school district reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by a user. Therefore, privacy is not guaranteed. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the school district and no user shall have the expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

VII. FAILURE TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES - The use of the computer network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Anyone violating these guidelines shall be subject disciplinary or legal actions, including, but not limited to:

● Inappropriate sites: First Offense = 2 days ISS or corporal punishment and computer privileges restricted to educational sites only for 30 days

● Viewing or attempting to view pornography: First Attempt = one day Out-of-School Suspension plus access to educational sites only for 30 days;

● Attempting to download songs: First offense = One day ISS or corporal punishment at WCHS and WCMS. One day of Character Education at WCES

● Second and future offenses on any of the above or others not covered: Administrator discretion.

VIII. INTERNET NETWORK ACCESS AGREEMENT

I accept responsibility to abide by the Board of Education’s Acceptable Use Guidelines. I understand that the use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege not a right, and I agree:

To use the computer network and Internet for appropriate educational purpose and research;

To use the computer network and Internet only with permission of teachers and administrators;

To be considerate of other users on the network and use appropriate language for school situations;

Not to intentionally degrade or disrupt Internet network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, or violating copyright laws;

To immediately report any security problems or breeches of these responsibilities to appropriate School staff;

To comply with all of the rules and expectations included in the policy and procedures;

Not to divulge personal information such as addresses, telephone numbers, or login information over the Internet.