

Student Internet Access /Computer Use Policy and Agreement

Zionsville Community Schools

Zionsville, Indiana

Introduction

The Internet is a place for the exchange of information and ideas on a wide range of subjects. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of materials that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The Zionsville Community Schools' (ZCS) network is connected to the Internet. While ZCS implements Internet filtering on all ZCS sites, it is impossible to control all materials on a global network. As such, students may encounter materials that are obscene, abusive, or otherwise offensive. ZCS firmly believes that information and the interaction available utilizing the network outweighs the possibility that students may access materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of ZCS. Internet access is seen as a supplement to traditional sources, both print and non-print, not as a replacement for them.

The purpose of this policy is to identify standards that will assist in ensuring students benefit from their use of the ZCS network and the Internet.

Use of the ZCS Network

The use of the ZCS network is a privilege, not a right. Students who fail to comply with this policy or violate ZCS' disciplinary policies while using the ZCS network may lose the privilege to access the ZCS network. Students may also lose the privilege to use computer equipment provided by ZCS or to bring their own computerized devices to school. Students may also be subject to other disciplinary action as appropriate based upon the nature and severity of the violation.

All students who request access to Internet resources through ZCS, whether on or off of school property, will complete and sign a Student Internet Access / Computer Use Agreement with ZCS. An agreement must be signed and submitted to the proper school personnel before any access request is processed. ZCS will not provide Internet access to any student who does not have a properly signed agreement on file with the school corporation. In the case of students under the age of 18, parental consent and signatures will be required before access will be granted.

Services

As part of the electronic information highway, Internet provides access to:

- Electronic mail communications with people all over the world.
- Information and news from government other public agencies, as well as the opportunity to correspond with scientists, authors, and politicians from around the world.
- Discussion forums on a variety of topics.
- Library catalogs and other materials from the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the Indiana State Library, and many universities.

Acceptable Uses

Acceptable use of Internet resources is based on its original purpose, which is to provide a backbone network to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The operation of this worldwide computer network relies upon the proper conduct of its users. As a result, individuals must adhere to appropriate use guidelines.

ZCS does not assume responsibility for individuals using the network through its facilities, but does acknowledge the responsibility to the Internet community to enforce accepted standards of network protocol and the obligation to recommend the termination of a user's network password and identification if misuse of the Internet resources is discovered.

Outside of school, families bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies and other possibly offensive media.

Use of the Internet by ZCS students must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the educational objectives of the corporation. During classroom activities, it is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to supervise student Internet use in a manner that is consistent with the educational objectives of ZCS and this policy.

Unacceptable Uses

Use of the ZCS network for any of the following purposes is prohibited:

- To knowingly access, upload, download, or distribute or attempt to knowingly access, upload, download or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials.
- To transmit or attempt to transmit obscene, abusive, or sexually explicit language, images, or materials.
- To annoy, harass, intimidate, or threaten, or attempt to annoy, harass, intimidate, or threaten any person or organization.
- To vandalize, damage, or disable, or attempt to vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization.
- To endanger or attempt to endanger the integrity of a computer on the ZCS network or the data stored on the network, including the introduction of computer viruses or worms.
- To circumvent or attempt to circumvent ZCS's Internet security measures and/or filters.
- To log on or to attempt to log on to the network using another person or group's name and password or to otherwise misuse a name or password.
- To falsely represent or attempt to falsely represent oneself in any Internet communication.
- To access or attempt to access another person's materials, information, or files without the implied or direct permission of that person.
- To transmit or attempt to transmit, without authorization, information that is false or defamatory or violates the privacy of another person.
- To interfere with or attempt to interfere with the lawful activities of any person, business, or organization in any manner.
- To violate or attempt to violate copyright, or otherwise use another person's intellectual property without his/her prior approval or proper citations.
- To transmit or attempt to transmit, without authorization, copyrighted materials or materials protected by trade secret.
- To transmit or attempt to transmit unsolicited emails (e.g., chain letter emails, spamming emails) or emails to any of ZCS's distribution lists without permission of a school official.
- To download or attempt to download games, entertainment software, or copyrighted material without permission of a school official.
- To utilize peer-to-peer file-sharing applications or attempt to utilize peer-to-peer file-sharing applications without permission of a school official.
- To install or modify or attempt to install or modify any software on any ZCS computer.
- To engage in commercial activity, product advertisement, or political lobbying.
- To violate or attempt to violate any local, state or federal statute, or any rule, regulation, or policy of ZCS.

This is not an exhaustive list. Other similar behaviors are prohibited and may subject a student to the denial of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Privacy Limitations and Filtering

In accordance with its obligations under the Children's Internet Protection Act, ZCS implements measures to block or filter, to the extent practicable, access to material that is obscene, pornographic and/or harmful to minors. Because of these monitoring obligations, students have no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their use of the ZCS network or any computer equipment, software, access accounts, or other types of materials or facilities owned, controlled, or provided by ZCS. Use of the ZCS network constitutes consent to be monitored.

ZCS reserves the right to view, copy, intercept, or block the transmission of any type of material or communication which does not conform to this policy, and may use any such material or communication in the investigation of any violation of this policy or in any disciplinary actions or proceedings against any student which might result from the student's violation of this policy. ZCS also reserves the right to make referral of certain types of violations to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Student Responsibilities

In accordance with its obligations under the Children's Internet Protection Act, ZCS has undertaken efforts to educate students about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response and interactions with individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.

Students using the network and communicating with others on the Internet should exercise caution and remember the following:

- People in chat rooms on instant messaging may not be who they appear to be.
- Personal information, such as home telephone numbers, names, addresses, and photographs of students, should never be disclosed in a public forum (e.g., a chat room or on a profile).
- Students should not reveal their names or personal information to or establish relationships with strangers met through the Internet, unless a parent or school official has coordinated the communication.
- Internet security is tenuous at best. Students should refrain from sending or receiving any communications or material over the network that they would not want to be made public.
- Do not respond to unsolicited emails, advertisements, or other requests for your personal information.
- Protect your password by making it long and strong (combining upper and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols).

If a student is uncomfortable or feels harassed, intimidated, or threatened by information that he or she receives over the Internet, he or she should tell a teacher, principal, or other school official immediately. Likewise, if a student is asked by another Internet user to stop emailing or contacting them, the student must stop all contact immediately.

If a student receives inappropriate materials or stumbles onto inappropriate materials on the Internet while doing legitimate research, the student is expected to notify the teacher, principal, or another school official.

Network etiquette expects that the student abide by the following guidelines. These guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Students are expected to be courteous and respectful. The use of vulgar, obscene, lewd, and otherwise inappropriate language is prohibited. Students shall not engage in cyberbullying.
- While the Internet itself has virtually boundless resources, the availability of local communication and storage resources is limited. Since list servers and mail servers can generate a significant amount of data to be stored, students are expected to "clean up" their files or mailboxes at appropriate times so as to not create a storage problem on the host server.
- All communications and information obtained via the network or the Internet should be assumed to be intellectual property subject to federal copyright law.

- Any attempt to compromise network security is prohibited. Any student identifying a possible breach in security must notify a system administrator or the corporation's Chief Technology Officer.

Information and Service Disclaimers

ZCS make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, about the information gained through the Internet, including its quality or accuracy. Use of information obtained through the Internet is at the student's own risk and ZCS cannot be held responsible for any material a student mistakenly or intentionally accesses or transmits via the ZCS network.

ZCS makes no warranties about the quality of the services provided and is not responsible for any claims, losses (including, but not limited to, the loss of data), damages, costs, or other obligations arising from a student's use of the ZCS network or any computer equipment or software owned, controlled, or provided by ZCS.

It is the policy of ZCS that the cost of any materials to a student utilizing the Internet is the responsibility of the student, or in the case of a student under the age of 18, the person who authorizes a network account. This authorization extends to any financial obligation that may be incurred when utilizing the network. Under no circumstances will ZCS be liable for any unauthorized purchases or other financial obligations resulting from ZCS-provided access to the Internet. The signatures on the Internet Access / Computer Use Agreement are legally binding and indicate that the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully, understand the significance of the policy, and agree to abide by the policy in all its terms and conditions.

**STUDENT INTERNET ACCESS / COMPUTER USE AGREEMENT
ZIONSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

Students wishing to use computer equipment owned, controlled, or provided by Zionsville Community Schools (ZCS) and/or to access the ZCS network must agree to comply with the Internet Access / Computer Use Policy and must complete the following agreement.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Student Internet Access / Computer Use Policy for ZCS, I have read that policy and understand the terms outlined for accessing the ZCS network, and I agree to abide by the policy in all its terms and conditions. I also acknowledge that I am responsible for the use of my student identification and password. I understand that use of the ZCS network is a privilege and that ZCS has the right to monitor all network activity. I further acknowledge that any violation of the policy may result in the cancellation of my access privileges, disciplinary action, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN STATEMENT
To be completed for all students under the age of 18**

As a parent or guardian of the above-named student, I have read the Student Internet Access / Computer Use Policy for ZCS and I understand and agree to its provisions. I understand that network access is designed for educational purposes and that ZCS has taken precautions to avoid access to inappropriate materials. However, I also acknowledge that it is impossible to restrict access to all materials that may be considered inappropriate.

In consideration of the opportunities afforded by the use of the ZCS network and computer equipment, I agree to the following:

- Neither ZCS nor its employees are responsible for any materials the above-named student may access or transmit via the ZCS network. I accept full responsibility for the actions of the above-named student.
- ZCS is not responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs, or other obligations arising from the above-named student's use of the ZCS network or computer equipment or software owned, controlled, or provided by ZCS.
- ZCS is not responsible for any unauthorized purchases or other financial obligations arising through the above-named student's use of the ZCS network.

By signing this agreement, I give my permission for network access to be established for the above-named student and I certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____