

**STRATFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Acceptable Use Policy for Technology Terms and Conditions Policy #6400**

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**General Information**

Stratford School District provides state-of-the-art, well-serviced computer equipment, plus student and faculty training in information retrieval and access to a wide assortment of MacIntosh and CD-Rom data bases. Further, through the consortium of Camnet, Stratford provides a number of on-line databases with the well-known Internet being featured. The sole aim of Stratford's Board of Education and its administration in providing this technology is to support and compliment Stratford's curriculum. Any ancillary or recreational use of the equipment and software must be in the context of the curriculum.

Moreover, the purpose of providing technology resources is to improve learning and teaching through research and its consequent information retrieval, plus the dissemination, and the use of global communication resources. The system administrators are employees of the Stratford School District and reserve the right to monitor all activity on network facilities. Stratford's intent, clearly, is that students work with the technology and its software in loco parentis, that is, in the absence of parents, under the close supervision of the teacher, librarian, principal, vice principal or other designated system administrator. The end user of these networks must adhere to strict guidelines. They are provided here so that staff, community, student users, and the parents/guardians of students are aware of their responsibilities. The district may modify these rules at any time by publishing modified rule(s) on the system. The signatures at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate that the parties have read the terms and conditions carefully, understand their significance, and agree to abide by established rules.

**Information Content and Uses of the System**

The user agrees not to publish on, or over the system, any information which violates or infringes upon the rights of any other person or any information which would be abusive, profane or sexually offensive or which, without the approval of the system administrators, contains any advertising or any solicitation of other members to sue goods or services. The user agrees not to use the facilities and capabilities of the system to conduct any business or solicit the performance of any activity which is prohibited by law.

Because Stratford provides, through connection to the internet, access to other computer systems around the world, students and their parents understand that the district and system administrators, under some circumstances, have no control over content. While most of the content available on the internet is innocuous and much of it a valuable educational resource, some objectionable material exists. The district will provide student access to internet resources only in supervised environments and has taken steps to lock out objectionable areas, but potential dangers remain. Students and their

parents/guardians are advised that some systems may contain defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually-oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or otherwise illegal material.

Stratford and the system administrators do not condone the use of such materials and do not permit usage of such materials in the school environment. Parents of minors should be aware of the existence of such materials and monitor any future home usage of the District's resources. Students knowingly bringing such materials into the school environment will be dealt with according to the discipline policies of the district and such activities may result in suspension of such students' use of the network.

### **Online Conduct**

Any action by a student that is determined by a system administrator to constitute an inappropriate use of network resources or to restrict or inhibit improperly other members from using and enjoying those resources is strictly prohibited and may result in suspension of a student's use of the network and in additional disciplinary action. A student user specifically agrees not to submit, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or otherwise illegal material; nor shall a user encourage the use, sale, or distribution of controlled substances, transmission of material, information or software in violation of any local, state or federal law is also prohibited and is a breach of the Terms and Conditions. Users and their parents/guardians specifically agree to indemnify the Stratford District and the system administrators for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the district relating to, or arising out of any breach of this section (Online Conduct) by the user.

Network resources are available to the user for his/her personal learning experience only; commercial uses are strictly prohibited.

Software loaded into Stratford's hardware is provided to students as a curricular resource only. No student may install, upload, or download software without the express consent of the system administrator. Any software designed to damage other student software of the Stratford network (e.g., computer viruses) is specifically prohibited. The system administrators, at their sole discretion, reserve the right to refuse posting of files and to remove files. The system administrators, further reserve the right to terminate immediately a student misusing the system or to take other action consistent with the district's discipline code of a student who misuses Stratford software.

### **Copyrighted Material**

Copyrighted material must not be placed on any system connected to the network without the author's permission. Only the owner(s) or persons they specifically authorize may upload copyrighted material to the system. Students may download copyrighted material for their own use. Also, a student may non-commercially redistribute a copyrighted program with the express permission of the owner or authorized person. Permission must be specified in the document, on the system, or must be obtained directly from the author.

### **Public Posting Areas (Message Board/UseNet Groups)**

UseNet messages are posted from systems connected to the internet around the world and Stratford system administrators have no control of the content of messages posted from these other systems. To best utilize system resources, the system administrators will determine which UseNet groups are most applicable to the curricular needs of the school district and will carry these groups on the local system. The system administrators, at their sole discretion, may remove messages posted locally that are deemed to be unacceptable or in violation of the Terms and Conditions. The system administrators, at their sole discretion, further reserve the right to immediately terminate student use of the network if one is found misusing the message boards or UseNet groups.

### **Real-Time Interactive Communication Areas**

System administrators, at their sole discretion, reserve the right to immediately terminate the account of a member who misuses real-time conference features (talk/chat/internet relay chat).

### **Electronic Mail**

Electronic mail ("Mail") is a private electronic message sent by or to a member in correspondence with another person having internet mail access. Messages received by the system are retained on the system until deleted by the recipient. A canceled Stratford account will not retain its mail. Members are expected to remove old messages in a timely fashion and the system administrators may remove such messages if not attended regularly by the member. The systems administrators will not intentionally inspect the contents of mail sent by one member to an identified addressee, or disclose such contents to other than the sender or an intended recipient, without the consent of the sender or an intended recipient, unless required to do so by law or policies of the Stratford District, or to investigate complaints regarding mail which is alleged to contain defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or otherwise illegal material. Stratford reserves the right to cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any mail transmitted on the Stratford network.

### **Disk Usage**

System administrators reserve the right to set quotas for disk usage on the system. A member who exceeds his quota will be advised to delete files to return to compliance. A member who remains in noncompliance of disk space quotas after seven (7) days of notification will have his/her files removed by a system administrator.

### **Use of Laser Printers and Paper Consumption**

Systems administrators reserve the right to set limits for use of laser printers and the consequent consumption of paper. They will be guided by their judgment of what is necessary and frugal in the student learning process. Use of Stratford printers and paper

for non-curricular or recreational reasons is prohibited and, if flagrant, may result in a student discipline referral.

### **Security**

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If student or teacher feels that he/she can identify a security problem on the system, he/she is advised to notify a system administrator. The student should not demonstrate the problem to any others. Professional staff may allow students who are not members to access the system through the staff person's account as long as the staff person does not disclose the password of the account to the students and understands that the staff person assumes responsibility for the actions of students using his/her account. Members may not otherwise let others use their account and password. Attempts to log in to the system using either another student's account or as a system administrator will result in termination of the account. Teachers should immediately notify a system administrator if a password is lost or stolen, or if they have reason to believe that someone has obtained unauthorized access to their account. Any member identified as a security risk will have his/her account terminated and be subject to other disciplinary action.

### **Vandalism**

Vandalism will result in cancellation of system privileges and other disciplinary measures in compliance with the district's discipline code. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of other user, the system, or any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the internet backbone or of doing intentional damage to hardware or software resident on the system. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

### **Computer Game Playing and Computer Painting**

No computer games are permitted during Stratford's school day unless they are part of a faculty member's instructional technique. School-appropriate games are permitted before and after the school day. At these times they are permitted only when computers are not needed for other purposes. Game playing over dial-up-links or other inter-machine communication is prohibited. Although drawing and painting have legitimate academic and therapeutic use, those activities are prohibited when done for vacuously recreational purposes.

Date: March 24, 1997