



Student Acceptable Use Policy for Grades 6 - 12

Pittsylvania County Schools recognizes the importance of computer technology in providing tools for today's education. It is the responsibility of the student to use technology appropriately. The use of these technology facilities is a privilege and should be treated as such. This *Acceptable Use Policy* (AUP) is designed to describe how PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS expects the technology to be used. **Students violating this policy may suffer disciplinary action including but not limited to the loss of privileges relating to the use of technology in the schools as described in the *Student Conduct* policy (JFC-PC).**

As a user of these technologies you are expected to read, understand, and acknowledge this AUP document before using the technology resources. Uses which may be acceptable on a user's private personal account on another system may not be acceptable on this system which PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS provides. Students are advised that all online activity, even if personal or seemingly private, may be viewed by students, parents, and others as offensive or inappropriate. Content that creates a material or substantial disruption to the school or school division may result in student discipline as described in School Board policy JFC-PC (Student Conduct).

1.0 Acceptable Uses

Computer activities are intended for educational purposes such as reference and the production of educational documents and should be used accordingly.

Pittsylvania County Schools is dedicated to maintaining an appropriate learning environment; therefore, student users shall refrain from accessing sites which disrupt the learning environment, distract from the learning process, or hinder instruction. Such disruptions, distractions, or hindrances may include without limitation sexually explicit material, online video games, chat rooms, and shopping sites.

2.0 Chat Rooms, Forums, and other Communications

Pittsylvania County Schools takes seriously its responsibility to protect students from online threats; therefore, student communication with other Internet users via email, chat rooms, forums, or other types of interactive communication is generally prohibited.

Creation or transmission of any material in violation of local, state or national law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.

3.0 Activities Prohibited via School Telecommunications Facilities

These activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Unauthorized use of school Internet access
- Use for commercial purposes
- Unauthorized purchase of goods or services
- Product advertising
- Political lobbying
- Unauthorized remote access
- Transmitting email or other electronic correspondence under a false name

Other prohibited activities include:

- Any activity that results in the loss of another person's privacy
- Unauthorized use of the passwords of others to gain access to sites and/or programs
- Copying commercial software in violation of copyright laws and removing it from school property
- Changing or hiding folders or files
- Installing, copying, or running software not provided and authorized by PCS

4.0 Care and Facilities

- Users shall not damage, mar, or deface computer hardware in any manner.
- Defacing or damaging equipment by marking on it voids the manufacturer's warranty and is prohibited.

5.0 System Use

Deleting, altering or modifying software on school equipment is strictly prohibited. Students are expected to use the system in the manner provided without alteration.

The following uses are examples of prohibited activities:

- Bypassing system security features
- Unauthorized access of files or applications
- Possession or use of hacker utilities designed to bypass security systems (i.e. anonymous proxy server) or gain unauthorized access

All student access to the Internet from the school system is protected by filtering software. Bypassing this filtering software is prohibited.