

Hallsburg Independent School District Acceptable Use Policy

Internet access and electronic communication is available to students and teachers in the Hallsburg Independent School District. We believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in our school by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Hallsburg ISD has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and some users may discover controversial information. It is possible that students may find material on the Internet that parents consider objectionable. Although students may be supervised when they use the Internet, this does not guarantee that students will not access inappropriate materials. Hallsburg ISD's guidelines for accessing the Internet prohibit access to material that is inappropriate in the school environment. Students should report inappropriate access of material to a teacher, other staff persons, or their parents. Parents are encouraged to discuss responsible use of the Internet with their children and how this responsibility includes using the Internet at school as well as at home. We at Hallsburg ISD firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the District.

The following guidelines are provided so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Hallsburg ISD user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

Acceptable Use

The purpose of the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Hallsburg ISD. Use of another organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Students will have access to email only under their teacher's direct supervision using a classroom account. Individual elementary students are not generally issued an individual email account.

Unacceptable Use

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of those privileges. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. The Hallsburg ISD declares the following as unethical and unacceptable use:

- Use of the information networks for transmission of malicious e-mail or e-mail abuse such as chain letters, bulk e-mail, or junk e-mail.
- Use of the information networks to transmit illegal, harassing, libelous, abusive, threatening, and harmful, vulgar, obscene, inappropriate, or otherwise objectionable material of any kind or in support of such activities.
- Use of the information networks to transmit any material that contains viruses, trojan horses, worms, or any other harmful or deleterious programs.
- Use of the information networks to violate any U.S. Law regarding the transmission of technical data or software exported from the United States.
- Use of the information networks for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright laws and license agreements.
- Intentional disruption of information network traffic.
- Intentional disruption of equipment or system performance.
- Use of equipment or computing resources for commercial or financial gain or fraud.
- Theft of data, equipment, or intellectual property.
- Gaining unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizing the data or files of another user, including so-called "hacking."
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to resources or entities, including so-called "hacking."
- Forging of electronic mail messages or use of an account owned by another user.
- Invading the privacy of individuals.
- Posting anonymous messages.
- Possession of data which might be considered a violation of these rules on paper, disk, or any other form.

Consequences of Violations

Consequences of violations include but are not limited to:

- Suspension of information network access.
- Revocation of information network access.
- Suspension of network privileges.
- Revocation of network privileges.
- Suspension of computer access.
- Revocation of computer access.
- Dismissal from employment.
- Suspension or expulsion from school.
- Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

Network Etiquette

- Be polite.
- Use appropriate language. Never swear or use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not reveal your home address or personal phone number or the addresses or phone numbers of others.
- E-mail is not guaranteed to be private. What you say and do can be viewed globally. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities must be reported to the authorities.
- Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt use of the network by others.
- Be brief.
- Minimize spelling errors and make sure your message is easy to understand and read.
- Remember that humor and satire are very often misinterpreted.