

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

The Albertville City School System may make available to students access to interconnected computer systems within the District and to the Internet, the world-wide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities.

In order for the Albertville City School System to continue to make its computer network and Internet access available, all students and personnel must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access. Students must understand that one student's misuse of the network and Internet access may jeopardize the ability of all students to enjoy such access. While the Albertville City School System's teachers and other staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise student use of the network and Internet access, they must have student cooperation in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access.

Each student and their parents/guardians are required to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement at the beginning of each school year. This agreement is kept on file at each school. Failure to sign the agreement will disallow the student's privilege to access the system's network and the Internet.

INTERNET SAFETY

In an effort to promote and insure students' safety while accessing the Albertville City School System's technology resources, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- A. **General Warning: Individual Responsibility of Parents and Users:** All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include potential access to materials inappropriate for school-aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and the Internet and stay away from these sites. Parents and teachers of minors are the best guides to assisting with appropriateness of materials. If a student finds that others are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the person designated by the school.
- B. **Personal Safety:** Be safe. In using the computer network and the Internet, never reveal personal information such as home address or telephone number. Students should never use their real last name or any other information that might allow a person to locate them without first obtaining permission of the supervising teacher or parent. Students should never arrange a face-to-face meeting with anyone whom they "meet" on the computer network or the Internet without first obtaining the permission of their parents/guardians. Regardless of the student's age, the student should never agree to meet a person with whom they have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or private setting.
- C. **"Hacking" or Other Illegal Activity:** It is a violation of this policy to use the school system's computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access into other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access. Any such use violates state and federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, and the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials. Use which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance is strictly prohibited.

- D. **Confidentiality of Student Information:** Personal identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed in any way on the Internet without prior permission of a parent/guardian or, if the student is 18 or older, the prior permission of himself/herself. Users should never give out private or confidential information about themselves or others on the Internet, particularly credit card numbers and Social Security numbers. A supervising teacher or administrator may authorize the release of directory information, as defined by law, for internal administrative purposes or approved educational projects and activities. At no time should a picture of a student be posted on a school-related web site with an identifying name. All student pictures posted to school-related web sites must have the prior permission of parents/guardians before they are posted. Permission to use a student's picture on a school-related web site should be kept on file at each school.
- E. **Active Restriction Measures:** The Albertville City School System shall use filtering software and other means to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful to minors. The filtering software also blocks access to chat rooms. The Albertville City School System will monitor the online activities of students and staff through direct observation and/or technological means to insure that students and staff are not accessing such depictions or any other inappropriate materials.

Internet filtering software or other technology-based protection systems may be disabled by a supervising teacher with the approval of the Technology Coordinator as necessary for the purposes of bona fide research or other educational projects being conducted by students age 17 or younger.

The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 [h] [7]) as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibition of the genitals;
- taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

PRIVACY

Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for the students' and staff's educational purposes. The Albertville City School System reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All information files shall be and remain the property of the Albertville City School System and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW POLICY

The use of the Albertville City School's computer network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any user who violates this policy, shall at the minimum, have his or her access to the computer network and the Internet terminated, which the school system may refuse to reinstate. A user violates this policy by his or her own action or by failing to report any violations by other users that may come to the attention of the user. Further, a user violates this policy if he or she permits another user to use his or her account or password to access the computer network or the Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated. The school system may also take other disciplinary action in such circumstances.

WARRANTIES/INDEMNIFICATION

The Albertville City School System makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this policy. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages, or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his or her parents/guardians arising out of the user's use of the computer networks or the Internet under this policy. By signing the Acceptable Use Agreement at the beginning of each school year, users are taking full responsibility for his or her use. In addition, the user takes full responsibility for his/her activities. If over age 18, he/she agrees, or if under 18, the parents/or guardians are agreeing to indemnify and hold the school, the school system, the Data Acquisition Site that provides the computer and Internet access opportunity to the Albertville City School System, and all of the administrators, teachers, and staff harmless from any or all loss, costs, claims, or damages resulting from the user's access to the computer network and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchases of goods and services by the user. The user or, if the user is a minor, the user's parents/or guardians agree to cooperate with the school and/or school system in the event of the school initiating an investigation of a user's use or his/her access to its computer network and the Internet, whether that use is on a school computer or another computer outside the Albertville City School's network.

UPDATES

Users, and if appropriate, the user's parents/guardians, may be asked from time to time to provide new and additional registration and account information or to sign a new policy, for example, to reflect developments in the law or technology. Such information must be provided by the user (or his/her parents/guardians) or such new policy must be signed if the user wishes to continue to receive related services.