

Acceptable Computer Network and Internet Use Policy

Stewart County School System

The Stewart County School System (SCSS) offers Internet access for faculty and student use. This document contains the Acceptable Use Policy for student users of the SCSS Computer Network and Internet resources.

A. Educational Purpose

1. The SCSS Computer Network has been established for a limited educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" includes classroom activities, career development, and limited high-quality self-discovery activities.
2. The SCSS Computer Network has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. SCSS has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material you access or post through the system. You are also expected to follow the rules set forth in the SCSS Disciplinary Code and the law in your use of the SCSS Computer Network
3. You may not use the SCSS Computer Network for commercial purposes. This means you may not offer, provide, or purchase products or services through the SCSS Network.
4. You may not use the SCSS Computer Network for political lobbying. But you may use the system to communicate with elected representatives and to express your opinion on political issues.

B. Student Internet Access

1. All students will have access to Internet World Wide Web information resources through their classroom, library, or school computer lab with permission of parent or guardian.
2. At this time, e-mail accounts and personal web pages are not being issued to students. If and when these resources are allowed, additional conditions will be added to the Student Acceptable Use Policy to address the additional responsibilities which accompany these items.

C. Unacceptable Uses

The following uses of the SCSS Computer Network are considered unacceptable:

1. Personal Safety
 - a. You will not post personal contact information about yourself or other people. Personal contact information includes your address, telephone, school address, work address, etc.
 - b. You will not agree to meet with someone you have met on-line without your parent's approval. Your parent should accompany you to this meeting.
 - c. You will promptly disclose to your teacher or other school employee any message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.
2. Illegal Activities
 - a. You will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the SCSS Computer Network or to any other computer system through the SCSS Computer Network or go beyond your authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing".
 - b. You will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
 - c. You will not use the SCSS Computer Network to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of person, etc.

3. System Security
 - a. You are responsible for your individual account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no conditions should you provide your password to another person.
 - b. You will immediately notify a teacher or the system administrator if you have identified a possible security problem. Do not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
 - c. You will avoid the inadvertent spread of computer viruses by following the District virus protection procedures if you download software.
4. Inappropriate Language
 - a. Restrictions against Inappropriate Language apply to public messages, private messages, and material posted on Web pages.
 - b. You will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.
 - c. You will not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption.
 - d. You will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
 - e. You will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, then you must stop.
 - f. You will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
5. Respect for Privacy
 - a. You will not repost a message that was sent to you privately without permission of the person who sent you the message.
 - b. You will not post private information about another person.
6. Respecting Resource Limits.
 - a. You will use the system only for educational and career development activities and limited, high-quality, self-discovery activities. There is no limit on use for education and career development activities.
 - b. You will not download large files unless absolutely necessary. If necessary, you will download the file at a time when the system is not being heavily used and immediately remove the file from the system computer to your personal computer.
 - c. You will not post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.
7. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement
 - a. You will not plagiarize works that you find on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours.
 - b. You will respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when you inappropriately reproduce a work that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, you should follow the expressed requirements. If you are unsure whether or not you can use a work, you should request permission from the copyright owner. Copyright law can be very confusing. If you have questions ask a teacher.
8. Inappropriate Access to Material
 - a. You will not use the SCSS Computer Network to access material that is profane or obscene (pornography), that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature). A special exception may be made for hate literature if the purpose of your access is to conduct research and both your teacher and parent have approved.
 - b. If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you should immediately tell your teacher, librarian, or another district employee. This will protect you against a claim that you have intentionally violated this Policy.
 - c. Your parents should instruct you if there is additional material that they think it would be inappropriate for you to access. The district fully expects that you will follow your parent's instructions in this matter.

D. Your Rights

1. Free Speech
 - a. Your right to free speech, as set forth in the SCSS Disciplinary Code, applies also to your communication on the Internet. The SCSS Computer Network is considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper, and therefore the District may restrict your speech for valid educational reasons. The District will not restrict your speech on the basis of a disagreement with the opinions you are expressing.
1. Search and Seizure
 - a. You should expect only limited privacy in the contents of your personal files on the SCSS Computer Network. The situation is similar to the rights you have in the privacy of your locker.
 - b. Routine maintenance and monitoring of SCSS Computer Network may lead to discovery that the you have violated this Policy, the SCSS Disciplinary Code, or the law.
 - c. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that you have violated this Policy, the SCSS Disciplinary Code, or the law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.
 - d. Your parents have the right at any time to request to see the contents of your e-mail files.
2. Due Process
 - a. The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through the SCSS Network.
 - b. In the event there is a claim that you have violated this Policy or the SCSS Disciplinary Code in your use of the SCSS Network, the matter will be addressed in accordance with the SCSS Disciplinary Code.
 - c. If the violation also involves a violation of other provisions of the SCSS Disciplinary Code, it will be handled in a manner described in the SCSS Disciplinary Code. Additional restrictions may be placed on your use of your Internet account.

E. Limitation of Liability

The District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the District system will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system.

F. Personal Responsibility

When you are using the SCSS Computer Network, it may feel like you can more easily break a rule and not get caught. This is not really true because whenever you do something on a network you leave little "electronic footprints," so the odds of getting caught are really about same as they are in the real world.

But the fact that you can do something or think you can do something without being caught does not make it right to do so. Even if you don't get caught, there is always one person who will know whether you have done wrong -- and that person is you. Your use of the Internet can be a mirror that will show you what kind of a person you are.