

## **NEXT High School Technology Acceptable Use Policy**

### **Internet access**

Because technology is a vital part of the educational process, and the curriculum of NEXT High School, Peers & PROs will be provided access to the Internet. By providing this access, the school intends to promote educational excellence and allow access to resources unavailable through traditional means. Through the Internet, Peers and PROs may have access to a wide variety of educational resources. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be of educational value. The school has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial or inappropriate materials. However, on a global network, it is impossible to control all materials and limit all access to information which has no educational value. The school firmly believes that the valuable information and the interaction available on this worldwide network far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the NEXT High School. The smooth operation of the Internet network relies on the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that users will be aware of their responsibilities when using the Internet. Any violations of these guidelines will subject the user to appropriate disciplinary action and possible denial of access to the Internet.

### **Terms and conditions of use**

#### **Acceptable Use**

The purpose of the school's decision to provide Internet access is to allow an expanded opportunity for research and education by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. All use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of NEXT High School. Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state laws or regulations is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.

### **Procedures for use**

Administrators and teachers may access the Internet for educational or work-related purposes at any time which is not disruptive and does not interfere with the performance of other responsibilities by the employee or other staff members.

Students will be allowed to access the Internet only through their teachers. No students may access the Internet without permission. Student use must be supervised at all times by a staff member.

## **Rules governing use**

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of Internet privileges. All staff and students, when allowed use of the Internet and e-mail, must abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette, including the following.

- Be polite. Do not be abusive in communication to others. Always use appropriate language. Profanity, vulgarities or other inappropriate language is prohibited. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- Never reveal the personal address or phone number of the user or others.
- Note that electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal or inappropriate activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- Do not disrupt, harass or annoy other users.
- All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property. Always cite all quotes, references and sources.
- Never access inappropriate or restricted information, such as pornography or other obscene materials, or other information not directly related to the educational purposes for which access is being provided. Restricted information includes obscene, libelous, indecent, vulgar, profane or lewd materials; advertisements for products or services not permitted to minors by law; insulting, fighting and harassing words; and other materials which may cause a substantial disruption of the academic environment.
- Vandalism also is prohibited and will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism includes any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user and includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- All users should remain on the system only as long as necessary to complete their work, so that other individuals will have equal opportunities to access the Internet.
- All users should use the Internet only for research and academic reasons; non-academic uses are prohibited. Do not use the system for financial or commercial gain.
- Always follow the instructions of the supervising staff members.

## **Penalties for improper use**

### Employees

An employee who violates the terms of this administrative rule or otherwise misuses the Internet to access inappropriate material will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. In addition, the privilege of accessing the Internet also will be subject to cancellation for up to one year.

### Students

Students who violate the terms of this administrative rule or who otherwise misuse their access to the Internet also will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the district's student behavior code. Internet access privileges also may be canceled for up to one year.

Violations of the laws of the United States or the state of South Carolina also may subject the user to criminal prosecution. If a user incurs unauthorized costs, the user, as well as the user's parents/legal guardians if the user is a student, will be responsible for all such costs.