

SECTION M

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND ACCESS POLICY FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF

Internet access is now available to students and staff within the Sioux Valley School District. This direct internet connection makes it possible to link our school networks to other computer networks around the world to access a vast wealth of educational resources.

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. The Sioux Valley School Board considers the Internet an extension of the school library and media center where materials can be checked out at the user's discretion. Questionable material exists on the Internet. Most of the time, users won't see inappropriate information on the Internet unless they search for it. It's the duty of the user to use the Internet in a responsible and ethical manner. The Sioux Valley School Board believes 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 Sioux Valley School District.

The Sioux Valley School Board recognizes the need for its staff and students to have access to a global information network and be trained in the proper use of the internet. Part of the district's responsibility in preparing students for the 21st century is to provide them access to the tools they will be using as adults. We believe that responsible use of this global information network is one of those tools. The use of this system shall be consistent with the district's educational philosophy and mission, district policy, and state and federal laws. The primary purpose is to support and enhance teaching and learning at Sioux Valley Public Schools and expand its educational mission by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

Because of the complex association between academic institutions, government and military agencies, and commercial entities that operate the internet, users are expected to adhere to strict guidelines and particular rules of conduct and protocol while on-line. They are outlined in this document so that users are aware of the responsibilities they must accept when given the privilege of using the internet.

Privileges:

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Each student who receives access will participate in a discussion with a Sioux Valley School faculty member pertaining to the proper use of the network. Infringement of or disrespect to the rights of others may result in the loss of your network privileges. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final. Also, the system administrators may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of Sioux Valley may request the system administrator to deny, revoke or suspend specific user accounts.

Network Etiquette:

- 1) The Sioux Valley network shall be used only for educational purposes consistent with the district's mission and goals.
- 2) E-mail must serve educational purposes consistent with the district's mission and goals. If you are using e-mail services, be polite. Your messages must not be abusive to others. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other language deemed inappropriate.
- 3) Do not reveal your personal address or phone number. Do not reveal the personal addresses and/or phone numbers of fellow students or colleagues.
- 4) Use of the network for any unauthorized or illegal activity is prohibited. Such activities include use of the system to obtain, store, display, print, submit or publish inaccurate information or objectionable material including, but not limited to: those that encourage use of tobacco products, alcohol or controlled substances; that encourage toleration or promotion of discrimination towards individuals or groups based on race, sex, religion or age; that are in violation of district policy, local, state or federal law.
- 5) Do not use the network in any way that you would disrupt network services for other users.

- 6) Students, staff or other users who knowingly access or bring prohibited materials into the school environment may be subject to suspension and/or the termination of their privileges and will be subject to discipline/disciplinary action in accordance with the district's policy and applicable administrative regulations and may face other legal penalties.
- 7) Do not use another individual's account.

Software:

Software cannot be downloaded from the Internet without written permission from the network administrators.

Non-Liability:

Sioux Valley Schools make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Sioux Valley Schools will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via Sioux Valley Schools is at the user's own risk. Sioux Valley School is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained.

Security:

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet, notify a teacher who will in turn notify a system administrator. Do not use another individual's account. Students are not allowed to access the Internet without an instructor's permission. All students must be monitored while accessing the Internet. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to Internet.

Vandalism:

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, data of another user, Internet, or any agencies or other networks that are connected. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

Consequences:

Violation of the provisions listed in the Sioux Valley School Acceptable Use Policy will constitute suspension of internet access for a period of two weeks or more. Violation of these provisions a second time will result in a termination of Internet privileges for the remainder of the school year.

Adopted: October 1997

Revised: August 1999