SHALLOWATER ISD
STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Shallowater ISD is offering Internet access for student use. This document contains the Acceptable Use Policy for the use of Shallowater ISD's network.

A. Educational Purpose

1. Shallowater ISD's network has been established for educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" includes classroom activities, career development, and limited high-quality self-discovery activities.
2. The network has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. Shallowater Independent School District has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material you access or post through the network.
3. You may not use the network for commercial purposes. This means you may not offer, provide, or purchase products or services through Shallowater ISD's network.
4. You may not use the network for political lobbying. You may use the network to communicate with elected representatives and to express your opinion on political issues.
5. Potentially, you will have access to the World Wide Web, information resources through the classroom, library, or school computer lab.
6. If approved by the district technology coordinator, you may create a personal web page on Shallowater ISD's network. All material placed on your web page must be pre-approved in a manner specified by the school. Material placed on your web page must relate to your school activities.
7. Personal email accounts can be accessed at school as long as use pertains to an educational purpose (including Dual-credit course, distance learning, or requirement for a particular class) and the student has obtained permission to use his/her personal email account from the technology coordinator, principal, or teacher. Any other student email use is prohibited.

B. Unacceptable Uses

The following uses of Shallowater ISD's 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 online 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 Shallowater ISD's network or to any other computer system through the 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. Students should never download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks, unless they have written permission from their teacher or principal. Nor should students copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.

c. 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.

d. You will not use Shallowater ISD's 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 a 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 if you are given a password.
   b. You will immediately notify a teacher or other school personnel, if you have identified a possible security problem. Do not look for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.

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, 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 re-post 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 not download large files unless you have permission from the teacher or principal. If necessary, you will download the file at a time when the network is not being heavily used and immediately remove the file from the system computer to your personal computer.

      b. You will not post chain letters or engage in "spamming." Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.

      c. You will subscribe only to high quality discussion group mail lists that are relevant to your education.

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 Shallowater ISD's network to access material that is profane or obscene, that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (such as hate literature).
   b. If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you should immediately tell your teacher or another District employee. This will help 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 would be inappropriate for you to access. The district fully expects that you will follow your parent's instructions in this matter.

C. Your Rights

1. Free Speech
   a. The Shallowater ISD's network is considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper, and therefore the District may restrict your speech for valid educational reasons.

2. Search and Seizure
   a. You should expect only limited privacy in the contents of your personal files on the District network. The situation is similar to the rights you have in the privacy of a disk.
   b. Routine maintenance and monitoring of Shallowater ISD's network may lead to discovery that you have violated this policy or the law.
   c. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that you have violated this policy, or the law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.

3. 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 Shallowater ISD Network.

b. In the event there is a claim that you have violated this policy in your use of the school district's network, you will be provided with a written notice of the suspected violation and an opportunity to present an explanation before an administrator.

c. If the violation also involves other provisions of the Texas Education Code, it will be handled in a manner described in that code. Additional restrictions may be placed on your use of your Internet account or access denied.

D. Limitation of Liability

- The District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the District network 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 network. The District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the network.

E. Personal Responsibility

- You need to understand that whenever you are on the network, you leave "electronic footprints" that can reveal where you've been and what you have been accessing.
- Almost anything you post online is stored indefinitely and could affect your ability to get a job or join an organization in the future. Do not assume that something you post on the internet is not publicly accessible.