

Elko County School District

Acceptable Use Policy for Telecommunications/Internet

The Board recognizes the need for students of the Elko County School District to access and use information in our information-oriented society. One of the fastest growing systems for world-wide access to information is the Internet.

With access through various types of **electronic devices**¹, students can access networks all over the world, and the possibility exists that some material may not be considered to have educational value in the context of the school setting. Through the "Acceptable Use Policy," the Elko County School District has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials and inform users of the proper use of electronic devices that access the Internet. However, on a global network, it is impossible to control all information. An industrious user may discover these controversial materials, either on purpose or by accident.

Elko County School District firmly believes that the value of the information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that an occasional user may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the school district.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files, email, text messages, video, pictures and other communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district equipment will be private.

During school, teachers will guide students toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio, and other potentially offensive media.

1. Electronic Devices: these are defined as any device including, but not limited to: cellular phones, personal assistants (PDA's), laptop computers, desktop computers, handheld computers, pagers, beepers, calculators, advanced function watches, cameras, iPods and other MP3 players, video game players, radios, or any other devices designed to communicate, create, or store information.

The school district shall utilize Elko County School District Policy (J.B.D.A. Student Discipline) which states:

1. Students and parents must read, sign and return the Elko County School District Acceptable Use Policy for Telecommunications/Internet.
2. Cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used during the regular instructional day without the permission of the Principal.
3. Cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used during passing periods without the permission of the Principal.
4. Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used before and after school, at lunch, at school activities, and on school sponsored trips, as long as they meet the requirements of the Elko County School District Acceptable use Policy for Telecommunications/Internet.

Inappropriate use of networks, electronic devices, computer systems and the Internet, including email falls under school district policy rules (J.D. Student Discipline categories 1-13).

Under these policies, the following are not allowed:

- Electronic devices during class time without the consent of the teacher
- Cameras of any type in restrooms, locker rooms, or during testing
- Sending text, images, sound, video or files for the purpose of cheating
- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Damaging electronic devices, computer systems, or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another's password
- Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources, i.e. excessive downloads, creating viruses, etc.
- Employing the network for commercial or any non-educational purposes

The ECSD administration has the authority to search any electronic device if they have just cause or reasonable suspicion that any of the above listed offenses have occurred.

Appeals:

A parent or legal guardian shall have the right of appeal to the Superintendent or his/her designee regarding offenses. Said request for appeal shall be submitted in writing directly to the Superintendent within ten (10) working days after the determination of a fourth offense.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF THE POLICY

First Offense

- The electronic device shall be confiscated.
- The parent/legal guardian shall be notified.
- The electronic device shall be turned over to the parent/legal guardian.
- A warning shall be given regarding the consequence(s) for any future violation of the policy.

Second Offense

- The electronic device shall be confiscated.
- The parent/legal guardian shall be notified.
- The electronic device shall be turned over to the parent/legal guardian.
- School-determined consequence for “administrative insubordination” or “disregard for school rules.”
- The policy shall be again reviewed with this student and his/her parent/legal guardian.
- A further warning shall be given regarding the consequence(s) for any future violation of the policy.

Third Offense

- The electronic device shall be confiscated.
- The parent/legal guardian shall be notified.
- The electronic device shall be turned over to the parent/legal guardian.
- School-determined consequence for second offense for “administrative insubordination” or “disregard for school rules.”
- Electronic device privileges shall be revoked for a period of 90 school days.
- The policy shall be again reviewed with this student and his/her parent/legal guardian.
- A further warning shall be given regarding the consequence(s) for any future violation of the policy.

Fourth and Subsequent Offenses

- The electronic device shall be confiscated.
- The parent/legal guardian shall be notified.
- The electronic device shall be turned over to the parent/legal guardian.
- School-determined consequence for third offense for “administrative insubordination” or “disregard for school rules.”
 - Electronic device privileges shall be revoked for 180 school days.

NOTE: Offenses shall be cumulative for the students in grades 7-12. Further disciplinary measures may apply as per ECSD Policy J.D. Student Discipline categories 1-13 depending upon the severity of the offense.

Telecommunications/Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

Student

I understand and will abide by the Telecommunications/Internet Acceptable Use Policy. I further understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my privileges for using or possessing electronic devices on school grounds or at school sponsored activities may be revoked, school and school district disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action. Further, I understand that the Elko County School District is not responsible for lost or stolen electronic devices.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Note: If you are under the age of 18 a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement below.)

Parent or Guardian

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Telecommunications/Internet Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that Internet access and the use of electronic devices are designed for educational purposes. Elko County School District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial materials. However, I also recognize that with the global nature of the Internet it is impossible for Elko County School District to restrict access to all controversial materials, or even be aware of them, and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I understand that the Elko County School District is not responsible for lost or stolen electronic devices. I agree to assist the Elko County School District in enforcing this policy by discussing the appropriate use of the Internet, Telecommunications and Electronic Devices while on school grounds and school-sponsored activities with my child.

I hereby give permission for my child to use the Internet and certify that the information contained on this form is correct. Yes No

I hereby give permission for my child to possess and use electronic devices as per this policy: Yes No

Parent or Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Distribution:

Original: Principal's Office
Copies: Parent and Student