DALHART INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

Recognizing that the Internet represents an important and vital electronic resource that allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the world, the Dalhart Independent School District (The District) is pleased to provide Internet access to its staff and students as a part of the education process. The District also provides wireless access to staff and students who have their own, correctly configured, laptop computers, tablet computers, and other electronic devices.

Keeping children safe on the Internet is everyone's job. The District's policies shall not relieve parents and legal guardians of their ultimate responsibility to monitor and guide their own children's use of the Internet. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their children's use of the Internet and to talk about their personal values and expectations for their children's use of this resource. Federal law has been implemented to provide a Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which mandates filtering visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors on all computers that use The District's Internet and other network resources. This filter is site specific and is not intended to block research sites or information needed to complete the teaching and learning cycle. If you believe access is unjustly denied, a request for access to a specific site can be e-mailed to support@dalhart.k12.tx.us. Parents should also be aware that minors are instructed not to disclose any personal information when using e-mail or any other electronic communications.

General Rules and Limits regarding Internet access and computers:
Use of The District's Internet or computers for activities that violate local, state or federal laws is prohibited. This includes activities such as committing fraud, hacking, spreading libel or slander, and/or copyright infringement.

It is the responsibility of all users of electronic resources in The District to respect intellectual property rights. Copyright restrictions may exist for individual electronic resources. Users of The District's resources may only make copies allowable by copyright laws or licensed software agreements. The District expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic resources or any consequences thereof.

All devices (it does not matter who owns the device) that use The District's network for Internet access is logged through our Internet content filter. These logs are reviewed and monitored for inappropriate use. Attempts to bypass The District's content filter will result in immediate loss of Internet privileges and other consequences as appropriate according to The District's School Board Policies.

All users of The District's electronic resources are reminded that many of our computer terminals are located in public areas which are shared with users and staff of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Individuals are expected to consider this diversity and respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information or images.

It is The District's policy to maintain:

- appropriate level of filtering at ALL Internet terminals
- a parental consent for minors who wish to use the Internet
- compliance with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) and NCIPA (Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act) requirements
- legal restrictions, limitations or interpretations imposed by the courts or other decisions made by government authorities

- an atmosphere conducive to the best use of The District's resources. To this end, an effort will be made to balance the rights of users to access information resources with the rights of users and staff to work in a public setting free from disruptive sounds and visual images.

Users shall not:

- move or change the arrangement of any District owned computers or other electronic devices
- use the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, information or communication services or resources
- make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software
- make any attempt to cause degradation of system performance
- misuse computers and/or other equipment and resources
- disclose personally identifiable information over the Internet

Training:
To help ensure the student's safety and security when using the Internet and electronic communications, at the beginning of each school year, all students in grades 1 - 12 will receive age appropriate "Internet Safety Training". In January of each year, the teachers will review with the students The District's Internet Safety Policy. Internet Safety Training will include, but not be limited to, these topics:

- discouraging the disclosure of personally identifiable information,
- cyberbullying awareness and response,
- appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites