



Orange County Department of Education Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Internet access is now available to Orange County Department of Education Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in the Orange County Department of Education by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The Internet is an “electronic highway” connecting millions of computers all over the world and millions of individual users. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with users throughout the globe. In addition, the system is used to increase Orange County Department of Education communication, enhance productivity, and assist OCDE employees in upgrading their skills through greater exchange of information with their peers. The system also assists the Orange County Department of Education in sharing information with the local community, including parents, social service agencies, government agencies, and businesses.

With access to computers and people from around 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. Families should be warned that some material obtained via the Net may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. The Orange County Department of Education has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. On a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information, either by accident or deliberately. However, the benefits to students from online access far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the Orange County Department of Education.

The purpose of this agreement is to ensure that use of Internet resources are consistent with the Orange County Department of Education’s stated mission, goals, and objectives. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the students and faculty who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. If an Orange County Department of Education user violates any of these provisions, his or her future access could be denied in accord with the rules and regulations discussed with each user during Internet training sessions.

To gain access to the Internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission and both parent and student must sign this document. The signatures at the end of this document legally bind and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

Orange County Department of Education Internet Use Agreement

Student Section

I have read pages one and two of the Orange County Department of Education Internet Use Agreement. I agree to follow the rules contained in this Policy. I understand that if I violate the rules, my account can be terminated and I may face other disciplinary measures.

User’s Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian Section

As the parent or legal guardian of the student signing above, I have read pages one and two of the Orange County Department of Education Internet Use Agreement and grant permission for my son or daughter to access the Internet. I understand the district’s computing resources are designed for educational purposes. I also understand that it is impossible for the Department of Education to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. I understand that the individuals and families may be held liable for violations. Furthermore, I accept full responsibility for the supervision if and when my child’s use is not in a school setting.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Internet - Terms and Conditions

1. Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer networks, just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.
2. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege - not a right. That access entails responsibility. Inappropriate use will result in suspension or cancellation of Internet privileges. The system administrators may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.
3. Users are expected to abide by their generally accepted rules of network etiquette and conduct themselves in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner while online.
4. Users are not permitted to use the computing resources for commercial purposes, product advertising, political lobbying, or political campaigning.
5. Users are not permitted to transmit, receive, submit, or publish any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, offensive, or illegal material.
6. Physical or electronic tampering with computer resources is not permitted. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks intentionally will result in cancellation of privileges.
7. Users must respect all copyright laws that protect software owners, artists, and writers. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.
8. Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If a security problem is identified in the school's computers, network, or Internet connection, a system administrator must be notified. Using someone else's password or trespassing in another's folders, work, or files without written permission is prohibited and may result in cancellation of user privileges.
9. The Orange County Department of Education makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Department assumes no responsibility or liability for any phone charges, line costs, or usage fees, nor for any damages a user may suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, nondeliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. The Department specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
10. All communication and information accessible via the computer resources shall be regarded as private property. However, people who operate the system may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.

Any violations may result in a loss of computer access, as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Users are considered subject to all local, state, and federal laws.