NORTH ZULCH ISD

COMPUTER ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in computer technology for instructional purposes. Use of these computer resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these resources; violations of this agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Students and their parents should be aware that e-mail and other electronic communications using district computers are not private and will be monitored by district staff. [For additional information, see policies at CQ.]

The use of networked computers is an integral part of the curriculum and instruction in the North Zulch Independent School District. The NZISD's computer network has been established for educational purposes. The term educational purpose includes, but is not limited to, access to libraries and databases, news and current events, information management, classroom activities, media center projects, research, career development, and credit recovery software.

However, despite its enormous educational opportunities, the Internet also contains the potential for abuse. It is the opinion of NZISD that the educational opportunities and benefits far outweigh the negatives of the Internet. North Zulch ISD is not responsible for ensuring the accuracy or usability of any information found on external networks. For safety purposes, North Zulch ISD employs both an Internet filter and firewall. North Zulch ISD maintains compliance with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act).

North Zulch ISD administration and Board of Trustees expects all employees and students to abide with the on-line Acceptable Use Procedures. Failure to follow guidelines may result in disciplinary action.

Parent(s)/ guardian(s) will be given the opportunity to determine their child's access to the Internet at the beginning of each school year. The North Zulch ISD will not be responsible for any and all claims arising out of or related to the usage of this interconnected computer system.

Responsibilities of Students

The use of the computers and networks is a privilege and not a right, inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of those privileges and/or disciplinary action by school officials. A student's activities, while using the computers and networks, including the Internet, in school, must be in support of education and research consistent with the educational objectives of North Zulch ISD. In addition, a student accessing the Internet from a school site is responsible for all on-line activities which take place through the use of his or her account. When using any Internet site, students must comply with rules appropriate for that site.

Responsibilities of Educators

Educators will be responsible for explaining the Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy for Computers and Networks, for monitoring student activity while using computers and networks,

including the Internet, and for taking reasonable precautions to prevent students from accessing inappropriate sites. In addition, the school system will utilize software filtering programs to reduce the likelihood that students will access inappropriate material. In order to increase the protection of all users and to provide for network security, educators will keep any passwords or list of passwords secure.

Responsibilities of Parents

Parents and guardians are responsible for reading and discussing with their children the acceptable/appropriate and unacceptable/inappropriate uses of the computers and networks, including the Internet and Internet safety, as described in this document.

Consequences of Violation

The policies, procedures and rules for acceptable/appropriate use of computers and networks are contained in the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. They are intended to make the computers and networks safe, reliable, and educationally appropriate for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administrating the networks, so that more time can be spent enhancing services.

 Violation of the policies, procedures, and rules of North Zulch ISD concerning the use of computers and networks may result in loss of computer privileges and Internet access, disciplinary actions under the Code of Conduct, and/or appropriate legal action.

 North Zulch ISD reserves the right to determine whether specific uses of the computers and networks, including the Internet are acceptable or inappropriate. The principals or designees will review information and facts to determine in their professional judgment the severity of the violation and will follow district policy and guidelines to administer consequences.

Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If a user identifies or has knowledge of a security problem on the network/Internet, the user must notify a system administrator as soon as possible. The security problem should not be shown or demonstrated to other users. Attempts to log on to the network system as another user or a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges and disciplinary action. North Zulch ISD reserves the right to deny access to any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems. All North Zulch ISD student usage of the Internet and networks is subject to monitoring by North Zulch ISD personnel for inappropriate use.

Disclaimer

North Zulch ISD makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing and is not responsible for any damages suffered by users. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, miss-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or user errors or omissions. North Zulch ISD is not responsible for phone/credit card bills or any other charges incurred by users. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is

at the user's own risk. North Zulch ISD specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Exception of Terms and Conditions

All terms and conditions as stated in this document are applicable to the North Zulch Independent School District. The terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the

parties. Terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to all computer and network usage, including the Internet.

- Users shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs, or disks.
- Users shall not intentionally damage the system, damage information belonging to others, misuse system resources, or allow others to misuse system resources.
- Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or librarian.
- Users shall not write, produce, generate copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self- replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
- Users shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by North Zulch ISD, teachers, or another student without permission from authorized staff members.
- Users shall not use a computer or network for unlawful purposes, such as the illegal copying or installation of software or transmission or reception of any material in violation of federal or state regulations. This includes but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or protected trade secrets.
- Users shall not use North Zulch ISD computers or networks for any non-instructional or non-administrative purpose (e.g. inappropriate games or activities for personal profit).
- Users shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without written permission of a school administrator.
- Users shall not let other persons use their name, logon, password or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).
- Users shall not use or try to discover another user's password.
- No student is to use the Internet without the supervision of a teacher or librarian.
- Users shall not download files from the Internet without prior approval and supervision of a librarian or teacher.
- Users shall not deliberately use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not deliberately access or create any obscene or objectionable information, language, or images.

- Students shall promptly disclose to a teacher or school administrator any message that the student feels is inappropriate or that makes the student feel uncomfortable.
- Do not communicate any credit card number, bank account, or any other financial information.
- For student protection, personal information regarding users must not be provided across the Internet (e. g., last names, pictures, addresses, telephone numbers, or Social security numbers) unless authorized by the students' parents and the administration
- It is unacceptable to send chain letters or pyramid schemes to lists or individuals and any other type of use which would cause congestion of the Internet/network or otherwise interfere with the work of others.
- Note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- A fee may be charged for printed materials.
- All users must have a signed Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy for Computers and Networks on file with North Zulch ISD before use of computer and network facilities is allowed.

Inappropriate Language

- Restrictions against inappropriate language apply to public messages, private messages, and material posted on Web pages.

- Students and employees shall not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.

- Students and employees shall not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption.

- Students and employees shall not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks, based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or disability, or engage in any other harassment or discrimination prohibited by school district policy or by law.

- Students and employees shall not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If students or staff are told by a person to stop sending them messages, they must stop.

- Students and employees shall not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.