



Poth ISD Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

Purpose

This Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) outlines the acceptable use of technology resources and internet services within Poth Independent School District (Poth ISD). This policy is designed to protect both users and the district by ensuring that technology and online services are used in a legal, secure, and ethical manner.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, faculty, and any other individual using the district's technology resources, both on and off campus, including but not limited to: computers, mobile devices, network infrastructure, internet services, email accounts, and any associated applications and software.

Acceptable Use

1. Educational Purpose

All technology and internet services are to be used for educational purposes, instructional activities, and school-related research and communication. Any other use, unless expressly approved, is prohibited.

2. Respectful Communication

All users must communicate respectfully and appropriately while using district resources. Harassment, bullying, threatening, or inappropriate messages or content will not be tolerated.

3. Compliance with Laws and Policies

Users must comply with all federal, state, and local laws, as well as Poth ISD policies when accessing or using the district's technology resources. This includes, but is not limited to, laws related to copyright, privacy, and data security.

4. Responsible Use of Resources

Users are expected to use district technology resources responsibly and efficiently. Activities that consume excessive bandwidth, disrupt services, or damage hardware, software, or data are prohibited.

5. Account Security

Each user is responsible for maintaining the security of their account credentials (such as passwords). Sharing login credentials or attempting to gain unauthorized access to other accounts, files, or systems is prohibited.

6. Content Filtering

Poth ISD uses content-filtering software to block access to websites that are inappropriate or harmful to students, in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Users are prohibited from attempting to bypass content filters or security measures.

7. Personal Devices

Students and staff may be permitted to use personal devices for educational purposes. However, all personal devices must comply with this policy and any additional guidelines set forth by the district.

8. Digital Citizenship

Users are expected to practice responsible digital citizenship. This includes protecting the privacy and personal information of themselves and others, reporting inappropriate content, and avoiding the spread of false or misleading information.

9. Academic Services and Accounts

Students will have a personal account to access our networked computer systems, including the Internet, email, and 3rd-party applications.

Access to an account will be through an individually assigned username and password.

New student user accounts will be created at the beginning of each school year.

Student accounts will be used at school for school projects but may also be accessed outside of school with parental permission. The use of these accounts will facilitate our students in mastering effective electronic information and communication skills. By confirming you have read this document in the student registration process each year, I permit Poth ISD to create and manage third accounts (including but not limited to: Google Apps, Microsoft 365, Adobe, Remind, and Clever) for my child.

Prohibited Use

1. Illegal Activities

Engaging in any illegal activities, such as hacking, unauthorized access, or the distribution of illegal content, is strictly prohibited.

2. Inappropriate Content

Accessing, creating, or distributing obscene, pornographic, violent, or otherwise inappropriate material is forbidden. This includes sending or receiving content that violates district policies or community standards.

3. Commercial Use

Using district resources for personal commercial activities, advertising, or solicitation is prohibited.

4. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

Users are expected to respect intellectual property rights. Downloading, distributing, or using copyrighted material without permission or proper citation is prohibited.

5. Cyberbullying and Harassment

Cyberbullying, harassment, or any form of abusive or harmful behavior using district resources will result in disciplinary action.

Monitoring and Privacy

Poth ISD reserves the right to monitor and review any use of its technology resources, including internet usage, emails, and files stored on district systems. Users should not expect privacy when using district resources.

Consequences for Violation

Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to:

- Loss of access to technology resources
- Disciplinary measures per the student or employee code of conduct
- Legal action, if applicable

Policy Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes in technology, laws, and district needs. All users are expected to remain informed of any updates to the policy.