

**STUDENT RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY (RUP)**  
**For Student Access to the Local Area Network, Internet and E-mail Services**

**1. Purpose of Internet Access**

Access to the Internet is provided to students for educational purposes, particularly specific class-related activities, as well as other educational and career or professional development activities, and other activities approved by Teachers.

**2. Definitions**

As used in this document, "Internet Access" or the "System" refers to the Internet Access services provided to the student by the School and the Education Service Center Region XI ("ESC XI"). "School" refers to the school at which the student is attending. For the purposes of this document, references to School policies or codes of conduct include policies of the School's school district. The term "Teacher" includes teachers of the School as well as school librarians and other School officials responsible for computer labs or other computer facilities provided for Users of Internet Access. "User" refers to students or other individuals, including Teachers and other School employees, using the services described herein. These defined terms are capitalized in this document.

**3. Student Access**

A. Eligibility. Students in grades K-12 will be granted such Internet Access as deemed appropriate by the School, Teachers and ESC XI. Access to Internet Access is a privilege, not a right.

B. Services provided. ESC XI Internet Access provides access to the World Wide Web ("WWW"), excluding sites blocked by the service provider and/or the School as inappropriate for students and other sites or services prohibited by these guidelines or by Teachers. While reasonable efforts will be made to block access to inappropriate materials, this process is an inexact science and the Teachers, School, and ESC XI provide no guarantee that access to all inappropriate material will be blocked. Other Internet services may be made available from time to time for specific class-related activities under Teacher supervision.

C. Agreement to Responsible Use Guidelines required. No student may use Internet Access until he or she and the student's parent or guardian (if the student is under the age of 18) have signed this document and returned it to the School.

**4. Prohibited Uses**

A. Prohibited services. The following Internet services or uses are prohibited unless expressly approved and supervised by a Teacher for a class-related activity: Internet Relay Chat ("IRC"); other "chat" rooms or services; "free-mail" accounts such as Yahoo! Mail, Hotmail, etc.; Usenet Newsgroups; or any posting of messages on websites which allow the posting of messages. Other services prohibited under this section are File Transfer Protocol ("FTP"); Telnet; archives of Usenet Newsgroups found on the World Wide Web; Listservs; and Gopher. Students may not upload, transfer, download or install software or any executable files without the express permission and supervision of a Teacher.

B. Restrictions relating to personal safety. Students may not post personal contact information, including home or work addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc., about themselves or other people, except with the express approval of a Teacher. Students may not arrange to meet any other person contacted through Internet Access except with the express written approval of a Teacher and the student's parent or guardian.

C. Disruption of system, introduction of computer viruses. Students may not engage in any activity that disrupts the System, or other Users' use of the System, including, but not limited to, introducing computer viruses to the System, hacking, phreaking, bombing, spoofing, spamming or other improper use of the System. Deliberate violations may result in suspension or revocation of access to the System and/or other disciplinary action

D. Illegal activities or activities inconsistent with School policy. Students may not use Internet Access for any illegal or improper purposes, including, but not limited to, vandalism, harassment, defamation, libel, and

attempts to make unauthorized entry into other computer systems, or other activities inconsistent with School policy.

E. Impersonation. Users must use their real names and must not send or attempt to send messages that purport to be from some other person or entity.

F. Use of inappropriate language. Students will use only language appropriate for school situations as indicated by school codes of conduct.

G. Plagiarism and copyright infringement. Students will properly attribute material they obtain through Internet Access and not infringe the copyrights of others.

H. Access to inappropriate material. Students will not access any material not related to the educational purposes of the Internet Access, or attempt to access a site which has been blocked or to which access has been prohibited by their Teacher(s) or parent/guardian. Students may not access any material that is obscene or which advocates illegal acts. Students may not access material that advocates discrimination or violence towards other people, except for educational purposes under the direct supervision of a Teacher.

I. Commercial activities. Students may not use Internet Access to conduct a business, to offer, provide, buy or sell products or services, or to engage in any other commercial activities.

J. Use by unauthorized users. Students will not allow, encourage or facilitate use of Internet Access by unauthorized users.

K. Encryption. Students may not encrypt communications or files.

L. Students may not alter the software or hardware configuration of the computer used for System access in any manner, or attempt to bypass security or filtering systems set in place by ESC XI or the School.

M. Students may not initiate communications into the System from other computers (for example, home computers) that are inconsistent with the intended purposes of the System or with any of these Responsible Use Guidelines.

These guidelines do not attempt to list all required or proscribed behavior by Students. A Student's use of Internet Access and the System is subject to the supervision and discretion of the School, Teachers, and ESC XI and any further restrictions placed on students' use by their parents or guardians, if such restrictions are communicated in writing to the School.

## **5. Student Responsibilities**

In addition to observing all the other guidelines and school policies when using Internet Access or the System, students are responsible for:

A. Protection of system security. Students must notify their Teacher if they become aware of any security problem with or threat to the System and/or Internet Access.

B. Respect for privacy. Students must not post private information about another person or repost a message sent to them privately without the permission of the author of the message.

C. Respect for resource limits and appropriate uses. Students will use the System and/or Internet Access only in a reasonable manner and for purposes described in Section 1.

## **6. Consequences for Inappropriate Use**

Internet Access is a privilege, not a right. All school policies regarding student conduct extend to student conduct while using Internet Access. Students are responsible for good behavior while using Internet Access and the System just as they are responsible for good behavior in the classrooms, hallways and other facilities and grounds of the school. Failure to abide by these Responsible Use Guidelines may result in suspension or revocation of a student's access to the School's System, as well as other disciplinary action appropriate according to school policy, and/or other legal action, in accordance with applicable laws.

## **7. Privacy Limitations**

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their use of Internet Access or the System. Teachers or other School officials may, without prior notice, monitor students' use of Internet Access and the System, including e-mails when use of e-mail is permitted, as well as stored communications and files.

## **8. Parent/Guardian's Responsibilities**

A. Parents or guardians signing this form for a student under the age of 18 years may counsel their children on any further restrictions on their use of Internet Access. Any such restrictions will be observed by the school to the fullest extent practicable if they are communicated to the school in writing.

B. Parents or guardians signing this form for a student under the age of 18 agree to counsel their children on personal safety and responsibility when using Internet Access or the System.

## **9. Disclaimer of Warranty and Limitation of Liability**

ESC XI Internet Access and E-mail services are provided on an "as is," "as available" basis. ESC XI makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, including, without limitation, those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any of the Internet services provided by ESC XI, including any information obtained through the Internet. This limitation of liability includes loss of data, service delays or interruptions, and is in addition to any other limitations of liability as may be provided by law. ESC XI specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through ESC XI Internet Access and E-mail services, or for access or receipt by Users of inappropriate content. Use of any information obtained through Internet Access and E-mail services is at the Participant and User's own risk.

## **10. Indemnification**

Students and their parents or guardians agree to indemnify and hold the School, Teachers, ESC XI, and their affiliates, officers, agents, or other partners, and employees, harmless from any claim or demand, including reasonable attorneys' fees, due to or arising out of use or misuse of Internet Access by any student or other User, or arising from any User's violation of these Responsible Use Guidelines.



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Campus:**      Elementary                      Middle                      High

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last    First    Middle Initial

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street    City    State & Zip

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the **Student Responsible Use Policy (RUP)** for Peaster ISD. I agree to indemnify and hold Peaster Independent School District (PISD), Educational Service Center Region 11 (ESC XI), and their affiliates, officers, agents, or other partners, and employees, harmless from any claim or demand, including reasonable attorneys' fees, due to or arising out of use or misuse of the District's Electronic Communications System by any student or other User, or arising from any User's violation of these Responsible Use Guidelines.

Further, I understand that my computer use is not private and that the District and/or ESC XI may monitor my activity on the computer system, including local area network, internet use and e-mail at any time and for any reason without further notification.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_