

Ropes ISD 2024-2025

Student/Parent Technology Acceptable Use Policy

We live in a changing world where we have near immediate access to an abundance of information. Staff and students can now be both consumers and producers of information. Ropes ISD strives to be a 21st-century district by taking advantage of as many new technologies and methods of communication as possible.

The District provides an array of technological resources for staff and students to use. With access to these new technologies, users will have opportunities to learn and create like never before, but with those opportunities come new responsibilities. This agreement outlines appropriate use and prohibited activities when using technology resources owned by Ropes ISD or on Ropes ISD property.

Every user is expected to follow all guidelines stated below, as well as those given orally by the staff, and to demonstrate good digital citizenship and ethical online behavior at all times.

In accepting this agreement, users acknowledge the following rules and conditions:

As a District student, I understand that my school network and email accounts are owned by the District and are not private. Ropes ISD has the right to access my information at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, email transmission, online history, and computer files.

GOVERNMENT LAWS:

I will use computers in conformity with laws of the United States and the State of Texas, and the local policies of the Ropes ISD School Board. Violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Criminal Acts – These include, but are not limited to, “hacking” or attempting to access computer systems without authorization, harassing email, cyberbullying, cyberstalking, child pornography, vandalism, and/or unauthorized tampering with computer systems. (A list of Federal statutes from the United States Department of Justice is below as Appendix A).
2. Libel Laws - Publicly defaming people through the published material on the internet, email, etc...
3. Copyright Violations - Copying, selling or distributing copyrighted material without the express written permission of the author or publisher (users should assume that all materials available on the Internet are protected by copyright), engaging in plagiarism (using other's words or ideas as your own).

NETIQUETTE and RESPONSIBLE USE:

1. I understand that passwords are private. I will not allow others to use my account name and password, or try to use that of others. I will report any suspected breach of security to my teacher.
2. I will be polite and use appropriate language in my email messages, virtual learning environments, online postings, and other digital communications with others. I will refrain from using profanity, vulgarities or any other inappropriate language as determined by school administrators.
3. I will use email and other means of communications (e.g. blogs, wikis, podcasting, chat, instant-messaging, discussion boards, virtual learning environments, etc.) responsibly. I will not use computers, handheld computers, digital audio players, cell phones, personal digital devices or the Internet to send or post hate or harassing mail, pornography, make discriminatory or derogatory remarks about others, or engage in bullying, harassment, or other antisocial behaviors.
4. I understand that masquerading, spoofing, or pretending to be someone else is forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, sending out email, creating accounts, or posting messages or other online content (e.g. text, images, audio or video) in someone else's name as a joke.
5. I will use technology resources responsibly. I will not retrieve, save, or display hate-based, offensive or sexually explicit material using any of RISD computer resources. I am responsible for not pursuing material that could be considered offensive. I understand that I am to notify an adult immediately if by accident I encounter materials which violate appropriate use.
6. I will use technology resources productively and responsibly for school-related purposes. I will avoid using any technology resource in such a way that would disrupt the activities of other users.
7. I will refrain from attempting to bypass, or circumvent, security settings or Internet filters, or interfere with the operation of the network by installing illegal or personal hardware, software, or web-based services not approved by the District Technology Department.
8. I understand that vandalism is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to modifying or destroying equipment, programs, files, or settings on any computer or other technology resource.
9. I understand that I am responsible for reasonable daily care of the equipment made available by the district. Any destruction, deliberate or accidental, to district owned equipment will be handled through the office and repair and replacement will be the responsibility of the student.
10. I will keep my home directories (i.e. Google Drive, and/or other personal directories), email, etc. cleaned of items I no longer need.
11. I understand that work created using district equipment remains the property of Ropes ISD

12. I will respect the intellectual property of other users and information providers. I will obey copyright guidelines. I will not plagiarize or use other's work without proper citation and permission.
13. I will refrain from the use of or access of files, software, or other resources owned by others without the owner's permission. I will use only those school network directories and other resources that are designated for my use or for the purpose designated by my teacher.
14. I will not install any personal computer programs on school computers.
15. I will follow all guidelines set forth by the District and/or my teachers when publishing schoolwork online (e.g. to a website, blog, wiki, discussion board, podcasting or video site).
16. I understand the Internet is a source for information that is both true and false; and that the school is not responsible for inaccurate information obtained from the Internet.
17. I understand that District administrators will deem what conduct is inappropriate use if such conduct is not specified in this agreement.
18. I agree to abide by all Internet safety guidelines that are provided by the school and to complete all assignments related to Internet safety.
19. I am aware that the use of electronic mobile communication devices (smartphones, etc) is prohibited without permission during the school day.

PUBLISHING STUDENT PHOTOS AND WORK ON THE INTERNET:

Ropes ISD is committed to protecting the privacy and safety of all students. There are times when teachers and administrators feel it is appropriate to recognize students and their work in a public forum. Examples include publishing a team roster on a school's web page, exhibiting student work on the web, publishing multimedia presentations (i.e. videos, podcasts, power points, etc.) and inviting local media to report on school events. Ropes ISD takes every precaution to ensure that such disclosure is limited to appropriate school related events and handled in a responsible and ethical manner.

Disclaimers

RISD cannot guarantee that computers or networks will be error free or that services will go uninterrupted. Therefore, the District shall not be liable for any direct or indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including but not limited to, lost data or information sustained or incurred in connection with the use, operation, or inability to use the system. The District will not be responsible for any financial obligations that occur through the unauthorized use of the system.

Internet Access

Ropes ISD is connected to the Internet through the district's computer network. It is available for use in all classrooms and labs. The Internet will provide opportunities to reach out to people and institutions around the world to share information and research subjects. These are significant learning opportunities to prepare your child for the future, yet families should be warned that some materials accessible on the Internet are unacceptable or controversial. We have established guidelines and procedures with the intent of making Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, yet students may find ways to access other material as well.

It is important that parents and students review the following guidelines together. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others as a part of school projects. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner.

Ropes ISD students will be provided with e-mail accounts by the school district. Students will be expected to maintain proper etiquette and responsibility when using this resource.

In addition to the rules of behavior and consequences as identified in the Student Code of Conduct the following items specifically apply regarding the Internet and network . The following are prohibited:

1. Using another person's account/password
2. Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
3. Damaging computers, computer systems, computer networks
4. Violating copyright laws
5. Plagiarizing work
6. Trespassing in another person's folders, work, or files
7. Intentionally wasting limited resources (ie, Paper and/or Ink)
8. Using the network for commercial or political purposes
9. Using the network/computers for downloading games, music, videos that are NOT school related
10. Divulging personal account information, home address, or phone number
11. Accessing information that is profane and/or obscene
12. Posting anonymous messages
13. Failure to comply with district cell phone policy

Access is a privilege not a right. Violations may result in loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal actions. Parents may be held responsible financially or legally for the actions of their child(ren).

Any student who fails to comply with the district's policies and procedures concerning technology and the use thereof, will be subject to loss of ALL technology privileges which will include, but are not limited to email, internet usage, and online courses. In addition to the loss of technology privileges, students may also be subjected to disciplinary action(s) as stated in the Code of Conduct set forth by Ropes Independent School District. Consequences for violations may include a warning (verbal and / or written), loss of computer privileges, removal from class, recommended for Alternative Educational Program (AEP) placement, suspension, expulsion from school (if he or she engages in conduct on the Internet that contains elements of a felony, as defined by State of Federal Law). or other disciplinary actions as appropriate.

Chromebook Usage

Students at Ropes ISD are provided with district owned technology to use for educational purposes. It is the student's responsibility to care for the devices in a manner that will ensure the devices remain in a good working condition. If a device is found to be abused or is damaged and is in need of repair or replacement, district administration will use the following to determine the next course of action.

Intentional/Deliberate Damage: The student and the student's parents/guardians are responsible for the actual cost of repair or replacement, whichever is less when a device is damaged or destroyed because the student committed or intentionally facilitated a deliberate act of damage or vandalism. This matter has been reported to the School Resource Officer.

Unintentional/Accidental Damage: When a device is damaged as a result of unintentional or accidental circumstances, the student and the student's parent/guardian will be assessed the following fees:

- For the first occasion, the actual cost of repair or \$100, whichever is less.
- For the second occasion, the actual cost of repair or \$200, whichever is less.
- For the third and any subsequent occasions, the actual cost of repair or the actual replacement cost, whichever is less.

It is the expectation of the district that each student will follow the following rules when using or is in possession of a district owned device.

1. I will take care of my Chromebook.
2. I will know where my Chromebook is at all times.
3. Only I am permitted to use my Chromebook unless my teacher assigns it to someone in my absence.
4. I will always carry my Chromebook closed and with two hands.

5. I will always use my Chromebook in a safe place: a desk or table.
6. I will keep food and beverages away from my Chromebook, as they can cause damage to the device.
7. I will use my Chromebook in ways that are educationally appropriate and meet school usage requirements (This means I will not use Google Chat with others using technology).
8. I will use my Chromebook to complete assignments as expected. This means I will not use websites, games, and Google programs not approved by my teacher.
9. I will practice digital responsibility on the internet.
10. I will not place any decorations on my Chromebook.
11. I will only touch MY Chromebook.
12. I will only remove my Chromebook from the classroom when given permission.
13. I will report any damage to my Chromebook to my teacher immediately.

If a student fails to follow the Chromebook rules stated above, he/she understands and will accept any of the following consequences:

1. I may lose the privilege to use a Chromebook to complete schoolwork until I have proven I can be responsible.
2. I may be moved to a stationary computer.
3. I may be required to complete the assignment using paper and pen.
4. Students who are repeat offenders may visit with the principal before being allowed to use a Chromebook in the future.

The Acceptable Use Policy provides information and guidelines to ensure your child is a safe and responsible user of RISD technology resources. Please read and discuss the content with your child so that everyone has a clear understanding of expectations, behavior and consequences associated with RISD technology use.

All of the above policies and rules for acceptable use are intended to make maximum use of equipment and materials while allowing for a minimum of technical and mechanical administration. If there is any question concerning any of these policies or rules, please contact the RISD Superintendent of School, the Campus Principal, or the RISD Director of Technology

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:

I have read, understand, and will abide by the RISD Acceptable Use Policy. Should I commit a violation, I understand that consequences of my actions could include suspension of computer privileges, disciplinary action, and/or referral to law enforcement.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY:

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that computer access is provided for educational purposes in keeping with the academic goals of the District, and that student use for any other purpose is inappropriate. I recognize it is impossible for the District to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold the school responsible for materials acquired on the school network. I understand that children’s computer activities at home should be supervised as they can affect the academic environment at school.

By signing below, I understand that using technology at Ropes ISD, district owned or personal, is a privilege and not my right. I will follow the above rules and will accept any of the above consequences if I choose not to do what is expected of responsible Chromebook users.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Grade Level: _____

Student has accessed the policy and agrees to the policies and procedures laid out by the District within this plan. _____

Parent has accessed the policy and agrees to the policies and procedures laid out by the District within this plan. _____

Student Signature & Date

Parent Signature & Date