

**Veribest Independent School District (VISD)
Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) 2008-2009**

Student Account Agreement - Please print or type

Student Section

Name: _____ Student ID: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____

I have read the Acceptable Use Policy for VISD. 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.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Section

I have read the Acceptable Use Policy for VISD. I hereby release the Veribest Independent School District, its personnel, and any institutions with which it is affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child's use of, or inability to use, the District system, including, but not limited to claims that may arise from the unauthorized use of the system to purchase products or services.

I will instruct my child regarding any restrictions against accessing materials that are in addition to the restrictions set forth in the Acceptable Use Policy. I will emphasize to my child the importance of following the rules for personal safety.

By checking the boxes, I give or deny permission for my child. My signature certifies that the information contained in this form is correct.

My child **MAY** work on the Internet and access World Wide Web at school. My child **MAY NOT** work on the Internet the and access the World Wide Web at school.

My child's name and photo/video **MAY** be placed on the district/school website. My child's name and photo/video **MAY NOT** be placed on the district/school website.

My child's name and work **MAY** be placed on the district/school website. My child's name and work **MAY NOT** be placed on the district/school website.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Home Address: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

**Veribest Independent School District (VISD)
Student Acceptable Use Policy**

VISD provides Internet access, network resources, computers, and other technologies to its students for educational purposes. This Acceptable Use Policy for VISD students defines the expectations that VISD has for appropriate use of these systems by its students. Students who violate their Acceptable Use Policy or other related campus computer and behavior guidelines may lose the privilege to use District technology, Internet access, and network resources.

Section I: Educational Purpose

- A. The VISD network was established for a limited educational purpose. The term “educational purpose” includes classroom activities, career development, and teacher-directed research projects.
- B. The VISD network was established as a public access service or a public forum. VISD retains the right to place reasonable restrictions on the materials accessed or posted through its system. Students are expected to follow the rules set forth in the VISD Student Code of Conduct, Campus Rules, and District Policy as well as state and federal laws and regulations, when using the VISD network.
- C. The VISD network is not to be used for commercial purposes. This means students cannot offer, provide, or purchase products or services through the VISD network.
- D. The VISD network is not to be used for political lobbying. However, the system can be used to communicate with elected representatives and to express opinions on political issues.

Section II: Internet and Network Access

- A. Students will have access to the Internet and the World Wide Web information resources through the classroom, library, or school computer lab. Access is intended for educational resource purposes as instructed by campus personnel. The District employs an Internet content filter to safeguard its students from inappropriate or dangerous content while they are utilizing online resources. The District takes a reasonable step, through its adopted policies and technologies, to preclude access to objectionable material, but it is not possible for the district to absolutely prevent such access. Students should not attempt to bypass the Internet filter for any reason.
- B. All materials and information placed on student-created Web pages as a part of the VISD network must be preapproved in a manner specified by the school. Materials placed on Web pages must relate to the approved curriculum or to career preparation activities.
- C. Students will be granted network access through individual user or group accounts. Passwords for these accounts must not be shared, and students should only use their own individual or group account.
- D. Students are prohibited from using instant messaging software, participating in chat rooms or newsgroups, and from using social networking sites.
- E. Blogging or posting information to educational websites as part of the approved curriculum must be done with teacher supervision, and must serve a legitimate educational purpose.

Section III: Expectations for Student Use

A. Personal Safety

1. Students will not post personal information or contact information about themselves or other individuals online. Personal contact information includes address, telephone number, school address, parent or student work addresses, pictures, names, email addresses, etc.
2. Students will not agree to meet with someone they have met online.
3. Students will promptly disclose to the teacher, or another school employee, any message received that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.

B. Illegal Activities

1. Students will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the VISD network, VISD computers, or any other system when using the VISD network. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account, accessing another person's files, forgery, and attempted forgery. These actions are illegal. Unauthorized equipment may not be brought onto the campus for these or any other purposes.
2. Students will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses, or by any other means. These actions are illegal and they violate District policy and regulations. These actions may result in loss of access privileges, restitution, and other appropriate consequences.
3. Students will not use the VISD network to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of person, etc.

C. System Security

1. Students are responsible for their individual folders/data and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use their data. Under no conditions should a student provide his/her password to another person.
2. Students must notify a teacher or the system administrator immediately, if they identify a security problem. Students are not to seek out security vulnerabilities, as this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.

D. Inappropriate Language

1. Students will adhere to the restrictions against inappropriate language, which apply to public messages, private messages, and materials posted on Web pages.
2. Students will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.
3. Students will not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption.
4. Students will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
5. Students will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If told by a person to stop sending him/her messages, the student must stop.
6. Students will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.

E. Respect for Privacy

1. Students will not repost a message that was received privately without obtaining permission of the person who originally sent the message.
2. Students will not post private information about another person.

F. Respecting Resource Limits

1. Students will use the system only for educational and career development activities and limited high-quality, self-discovery activities upon approval of the instructor. There is no limit on use for education and career development activities.
2. Students will not download or install programs on District computer systems. This includes programs and files downloaded from the Internet, from portable drives, or from their own equipment (such as games, utilities, and other software not licensed by the District). Using peer to peer file sharing software is also prohibited.
3. Students will not post chain letters or engage in “spamming”. Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.
4. VISD provides Internet bandwidth for educational uses. This bandwidth is shared across the District. Students must use this bandwidth responsibly to ensure its availability for other students and staff. Students should not play music or videos from online sources unless it is part of a structured activity supervised by a teacher.

G. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

1. Students will not plagiarize works that are found on the Internet/Intranet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as one’s own. Students must cite the source of material they have used in their research or school work.
2. Students will respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when someone inappropriately reproduces a work that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, one should follow the expressed requirements. If a student is unsure whether or not the work can be used, a permission request should be sent to the copyright owner.

H. Inappropriate Access to Material

1. Students will not use the VISD network to access material that is profane, obscene, or pornographic; that advocates illegal acts; or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people. Exceptions may only be made for legitimate educational uses with teacher, administrative, and parent approval.
2. If a student mistakenly accesses inappropriate information, a teacher or another District employee must be notified immediately. Quick notification will protect the student against a claim that the AUP was intentionally violated.
3. Parents should instruct the student and teacher if there is additional material they think would be inappropriate for the student to access. The District fully expects the student to follow their parents’ instructions in this matter.

Section IV: Student Rights

A. Free Speech

The VISD network is considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper, and therefore the District may restrict a student’s speech for valid educational reasons. If the District is in disagreement with opinions that a student may be expressing, it will not restrict a student’s right to state those opinions.

B. Search and Seizure

1. Students should expect only limited privacy in the contents of personal files on the District’s system. The situation is similar to the rights a student has in the privacy of a locker.
2. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the VISD network may lead to discovery that the student has violated the AUP, the VISD Student Code of Conduct and Campus Rules, or the law of the land.

3. An individual search will be conducted, if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the AUP, the VISD Student Code of Conduct and Campus Rules, or the law of the land. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.

4. Parents have the right, at any time, to request to see the contents of their child's computer files if such an account exists.

C. Due Process

1. The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through the VISD network.

2. In the event there is a claim that a student has violated, the AUP or the VISD Student Code of Conduct and Campus Rules, in the use of the VISD network, the student will be provided a written notice of the suspected violation and an opportunity to present an explanation before a neutral administrative staff person.

3. If the violation also involves a violation of other provisions of the VISD Student Code of Conduct and Campus Rules, it will be handled in a manner described in the VISD Student Code of Conduct and Campus Rules. Additional restrictions may be placed on the student's use of their Internet account.

D. Limitation of Liability

The District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by, or through, the District's system will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage a student may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through, or stored on, the system. The District is not responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system.

E. Personal Responsibility

Students using VISD technology should keep in mind that these are shared resources for all students within VISD. Network and computer activity may be logged and analyzed to allow District personnel to track usage, troubleshoot problems, and verify that District systems are being used appropriately, in order to ensure system reliability and availability for all students.

High expectations exist for Veribest ISD students. Student usage of District computers, network resources, and Internet access should demonstrate a high standard of conduct as District technology is used to accomplish educational goals.