



AACPS Digital Citizenship

Lesson Title: Understand Your Acceptable Use Policy

Grade 5

Time: 30 minutes

Overview: Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) contracts encourage responsible behavior by students and staff and give administrators enforceable rules for acceptable use of school computers. Students will interpret and make inferences about their school's AUP.

Objectives:

- Describe school district's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Describe consequences of misusing school computers/network
- Identify need for Acceptable Use Policies

Materials:

Activity Sheet:
Understanding Acceptable Use

AACPS AUP

AACPS Student Handbook:
Student Rights and Responsibilities- Technology Resource Use by Students.

Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for Students (MTLSS)

Standard 2.0–Digital Citizenship:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history of technology, its implications on society and practice ethical, legal, and responsible use of technology to assure safety.

Activities: Introduce

- Invite students to imagine themselves as parents. Discuss how a busy street is a dangerous place for children.
- **Ask:** *How do you know that your child is ready to cross the street by herself? Is it when she reaches a certain age? Or, will she have to show you that she is ready?*
- Discuss with students the need for children to follow safety rules. Have them list rules they, as parents, would teach their children.
- **Ask:** *What will you do if your child breaks the rules?* (impose punishments, lose privilege of crossing street alone)
- Explain that parents, teachers, and principals think about similar issues when students go into cyberspace.
- Distribute the activity sheets.
- Have students read "Think About This." Help them understand that going into cyberspace connects their computer to other people's computers around the world.
- Ask students what they know about *Anne Arundel County's Acceptable Use Policy*. Ask students to describe how they practice using the AUP.

- Distribute copies of the AACPS Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) Depending on the length and reading level of your district's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) or contract, either distribute copies or paraphrase the rules for the class.
- Then have students complete "Read the Fine Print." Have them write the question numbers beside the AUP sections that support their answers or have students write answers on the activity sheet.

Closure:

- Explain to students that getting permission to use school computers is like getting a driver's license.
- **Ask:** *What might happen if a new driver had never learned the rules of the road?* (Drivers could break a law, get a ticket, or even get hurt.)
- **Ask:** *What might happen if students used school computers without knowing the rules of school computing?* (They might break a rule and be punished or they might get into trouble in cyberspace.)
- **Ask:** How can you share this information with your parents? (**AACPS Student Handbook: Student Rights and Responsibilities- Technology Resource Use by Students and the Acceptable Use Policy**)

Extension:

Students may create a poster to depict acceptable policy rules. Encourage students to represent the rules graphically with icons and a few key words. Then place the posters near school computers. If lab time is available, use Microsoft Publisher or KidPix to create the poster(s).

Name _____ Date _____

Understand Your Acceptable Use Policy

Think About This

Using a computer to talk to your friends is cool. Exploring Web sites makes schoolwork more fun. Just as there are rules for crossing the street safely, there are rules for going into cyberspace.

You may have heard a teacher explain what kinds of behavior are acceptable in her class. **Acceptable** means "permitted." Your school has acceptable use rules for using its computers. These rules may be in the form of a contract that you and your parent signed.



Read the Fine Print

Find out what your school's Acceptable Use Policy says. Then answer each question below in your own words.

1. What are your school's rules about using computer equipment?

2. About using E-mail?

Name _____ Date _____

3.What are your school's rules about searching on the Internet?

4. About breaking the law?

5. What happens to students who break the rules?

6. What should you do if you find out that someone is breaking the rules?

7. Why are these rules important to have in school?

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian:

Your son or daughter will have the opportunity to use the Anne Arundel County Public Schools computer network, which includes access to the Internet. The primary reason for using the Internet is to participate in curricular projects developed or utilized by some of your child's teachers. Additionally, the adoption of online local and state testing is gaining popularity and is expected to become a common practice in the near future. A multitude of instructional opportunities are prevalent on the internet. These resources make it possible for teachers to increase local instructional materials with a vast array of content designed by experts from all over the world.

In order to participate in the learning opportunities available over the internet, your child will be issued a student logon that will enable him/her to access the network. This logon will allow your child to take part in curricular activities designed and monitored by his/her teacher, take web-based tests and utilize software applications specially designed to provide your child with an enriched instructional environment.

Access to the internet means there is potential availability of materials that may be deemed objectionable. Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) has implemented a state-of-the-art content filtering system to ensure that students access information consistent with the goals of our instructional program. The filtering system is effective in blocking access to inappropriate content such as pornography, violence, and terrorist sites. However, it must be stated that it is impossible to limit/control access to all materials on such a global network.

Student Behavior And Responsibilities When Using Computer Resources

The student is responsible for appropriate behavior while using the school's computer network in the same manner as they are expected to exercise responsible behavior anywhere in the school. The following activities described below are deemed unacceptable. (These are samples of activities and are not to be considered all-inclusive)

- Using someone else's network logon.
- Using any network account for non-school related activity.
- Unauthorized copying of licensed software (also illegal).
- Downloading material for the purpose of plagiarizing its contents.
- "Instant" messaging.
- Removing or damaging computer components.
- Seeking to override or bypass computer or network security provisions.
- Accessing of obscene or inappropriate materials.
- Student use of obscenity or profanity on a computer or network.

Using the school computer network is a privilege, not a right. Violations of the above guidelines will result in the student losing his/her computer network privileges or other disciplinary actions depending on the severity of the infraction. Anne Arundel County Public Schools is committed to providing quality instructional opportunities for all students. The use of technology and the Internet are now essential components of the overall instructional program. Please take a few moments to discuss with your child the importance of using these resources responsibly.

** Also view Board of Education [Administrative Regulations 409, 607.02, 607.02A, and 902.03A](#) to read more about AACPS policy relating to internet use by teachers and students.

For more information: Check the **Student Handbook**, *A Guide to Student Rights & Responsibilities-Section: Technology Resource Use by Students*