

## **Somerset Public Schools Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

In order for students to use the Somerset Public Schools Internet connection directly, they must read these guidelines and sign the contract. The contract must be returned signed by a parent or guardian. These same guidelines are the expectations for all those using this connection as guests via connections from other Internet providers.

### **Internet – Guidelines for Use**

The internet is a vast, global network, linking computers at universities, high schools, science labs and other sites. Through the Internet, one can communicate with people all over the world through a number of discussion forums, as well as through electronic mail. In addition, many files are available for downloading on the Internet, many of which are of educational value. Because of its enormous size, the Internet's potential is boundless. It is possible to speak with everyone from prominent scientists to world leaders to a friend at college. However, with such great potential for education also comes some potential for abuse. It is the purpose of this list of guidelines, as well as the contract for Internet use, to make sure that all who use the Internet, both students and faculty, use this valuable resource in an appropriate manner.

The most important prerequisite for someone to receive an Internet account is that they take full responsibility for their own actions. The Somerset Public School system, along with the other organizations sponsoring this Internet link-up, will not be liable for the actions connecting to Internet. All users shall assume full liability, legal, financial, or otherwise, for their actions.

In addition, the Somerset Public School system takes no responsibility for any information or materials that are transferred through Internet.

Because of the size of the Internet, many kinds of materials eventually find their way onto the system. Should any user happen to find materials which may be deemed inappropriate while using the Somerset Public Schools Internet account, they shall refrain from downloading this material, and shall not identify or share the location of this material. Be aware that the transfer of certain kinds of materials is illegal, and punishable by fine or jail sentence. Downloading of music is forbidden and will not be tolerated. Playing of computer games is not authorized.

The Somerset Public School system makes no guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding the reliability of the data connection. Neither Somerset Public Schools, nor the sponsor organizations, shall be liable for any loss or corruption of data resulting while using the Internet connection. The Somerset Public Schools system reserves the right to examine all data stored in the machines involved in the Internet link to make sure that all users are in compliance with these regulations. No student shall use this Internet link to perform any act that may be construed as illegal or unethical, including the use of the link to gain unauthorized access to other systems on the network.

The Somerset Public Schools administration reserves the right to change these rules at any time without notice.

The Somerset Public School system strongly condemns the illegal distribution of software, otherwise known as pirating. Any students caught transferring such files through Internet, and any whose account are found to contain such illegal files, shall immediately have their accounts permanently revoked. In addition, all users shall be aware that software piracy is a federal offense and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Finally, all users shall keep in mind that when they use the Internet, they are entering a global community, and any actions taken by them will reflect upon the school system as a whole. As such, all users must behave in an ethical and legal manner.

Before individuals gain access to the Internet, they need to familiarize themselves with the following rules of conduct:

- Adhere to copyright agreements
- Avoid the deliberate or inadvertent spread of computer viruses
- Do not use another person's files without permission
- Do not destroy, abuse or modify in any way the school's hardware or software
- Do not place unlawful information on the Internet
- Do not use the Internet for commercial purposes, product advertisement or political lobbying
- Do not download, store or print files that are profane or obscene
- Do not post personal information. This includes yours or another student's home phone number or address



**Somerset Public Schools, 580 Whetstone Hill Road, Somerset, MA**

### **Acknowledgement of Acceptable Use Policy**

This form is used to acknowledge receipt of, and compliance with the Somerset Public School system's Acceptable Use Policy (as published on the Somerset Public School's website somersetps.com)

#### **Procedure**

Complete the following steps:

1. Read the Acceptable Use Policy
2. Sign and date in the spaces provided below
3. Return this page only to the school's Guidance office

#### **Signature**

By signing below, I agree to the following terms:

1. I have received and read a copy of the Acceptable Use Policy and understand the same
2. I understand that violating the Acceptable Use Policy may result in the revoked privilege of use of the Somerset's computer network
3. This document will be in effect for the duration of enrollment in the Somerset Public School District or until a new acceptable use policy is published and requires updating

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

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