

# Columbia County Schools (CCBOE.NET)

## NETWORK USE POLICY

Columbia County Schools are committed to providing our students opportunities for preparation of their future careers. As our society moves into the "information age", our students are exposed to massive amounts of information and the world's knowledge base is still increasing rapidly. The school system is building a network to assist our students with additional resources to provide rapid access to information and increased opportunities for interactive learning. The school system now has the capability to receive current information from GSAMS sites, satellite, cable television, CDROM servers, laserdiscs, video cassettes, and the internet. Interactive communication is available with GSAMS and the internet.

Since Columbia County School District's computer network (CCBOE.NET) also provides access to the Internet, additional agreements and permissions must be signed for access. To access the internet, a student must first read and sign a legally binding contract called the Student Network Responsibility Contract. A sample is included in this brochure. The Internet is an electronic information and communications "highway" connecting millions of computers all over the world and millions of individual people. Students, teachers, support staff, parents and community members with accounts have access to several services. A sample of services is listed below:

- 1) electronic mail (email) communication with people all over the world;
- 2) information and news from a wide variety of sources and research institutions;
- 3) public domain and shareware software of all types;
- 4) discussion groups on a wide variety of topics;
- 5) access to many university libraries, the Library of Congress, Galileo, and more!

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of some materials that may not be considered to be of educational value within the context of the school setting. The administration and Board of Education of the Columbia County Schools firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweigh the possibility of users procuring material that is not consistent with the educational goals of each school. The network will implement filtering software to deny access to inappropriate materials. Even with this additional level of security, it is impossible to guarantee total security.

Here are some of the guidelines provided to establish the responsibilities of using CCBOE.NET. If any user violates any of these provisions, his or her account or access privileges may be terminated, appropriate disciplinary action taken, and all future access could be denied..

I. ACCEPTABLE USE: The purpose of CCBOE.NET's provision of access to the Internet is to support research and education in and among schools and academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of Columbia County Schools. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any materials in violation of any U.S. or state organization is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or materials protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities by for-profit institutions is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

II. PRIVILEGES: The use of CCBOE.NET network services is a PRIVILEGE, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of those privileges. The site and/or system administrator(s) will deem what is inappropriate use, take appropriate action and determine consequence. Also, the site and/or system administrator(s) may close an account or deny access at any time as required. The site administration and/or staff of Columbia County Schools may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.

III. NETIQUETTE (NETWORK ETIQUETTE): The network access requires that you abide by accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

**BE POLITE.** Do not send abusive messages to ANYONE.

**USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE.** In all messages, do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Anything pertaining to illegal activities is strictly forbidden. (Note that email is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities must be reported to appropriate authorities.)

**PRIVACY.** Do not reveal the personal address or phone numbers of yourself or any other person. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed private property. Do not forward/distribute an email message without permission from the author.

**CONNECTIVITY.** Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by others.

IV. SERVICES: CCBOE.NET will not be responsible for any damages you may suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by our own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via CCBOE.NET network services is at your own risk. CCBOE.NET denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through network services.

V. SECURITY: Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem within the CCBOE.NET network, you must notify a system administrator either in person or via the network. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account, forge messages or post anonymous messages. Attempts to access the system as any other user may result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to CCBOE.NET network services.

VI. VANDALISM: Vandalism may result in cancellation of privileges and/or criminal prosecution. This includes, but is not limited to, contamination, deletion or reconfiguration of data or degradation of system performance in any way.

VII. UPDATES: CCBOE.NET may occasionally require new registration and account information from you to continue providing services. You must notify the system administrator of any changes in your account information. All Terms and Conditions as stated in this document are applicable to the Columbia County Schools. These Terms and Conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia, United States of America.

November 1, 1996

Technology Office  
Columbia County Schools  
6430 Pollards Pond Road  
Appling, GA 30802

(Please return the completed agreement on the rear of this brochure to your school to allow your student access to the school network)

## Student Network Responsibility Contract

Please read the following carefully before signing this document. This is a legally binding contract and must be signed before network access is given.

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"I understand and will abide by the above Terms and Conditions for use of CCBOE.NET network services. I further understand that any violation of the regulation above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges

may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action pursued.”

Student Name:(please print)\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level:\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Faculty Sponsor (or teacher):\_\_\_\_\_

School:\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian Network Responsibility Contract**

(If user is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.)

As the parent or guardian of his student, I have read the Terms and Conditions for use of CCBOE.NET network services. I understand that these privileges are designed for educational purposes. I will not hold Columbia County Schools responsible for material acquired or problems related to the use of the material acquired on the network.

I hereby (grant \_\_\_\_\_) (do not grant \_\_\_\_\_) permission for my child to utilize CCBOE.NET network services and certify that the information contained on this form is correct. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child’s use is not in a school setting.

Parent or Guardian Name(please print):\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_