

## **Alief ISD Responsible Use Practice Guidelines (RUP) Grades 7-12**

Alief ISD believes that all students should have access to technology when they act in a responsible, courteous and legal manner. Network and Internet access and other online services available to students offer a multitude of global resources. Our goal in providing these services is to enhance the educational development of our students while creating good digital citizens. All Alief school Internet use is filtered and monitored in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and all applicable requirements. CIPA requires districts participating in the E-rate program to adopt and monitor an Internet safety policy that blocks or filters inappropriate Internet access to minors. **“Alief ISD will educate all of our students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.”**

A good citizen is someone who not only upholds and respects the laws of his/her country, but also acts in an appropriate way. Good citizens respect moral and ethical guidelines and behaviors. They show care and concern for themselves, their neighbors and other members of their communities. The good citizen respects other people’s property, and expects others to do the same for them. The good digital citizen applies the same rules to the cyber-world. A digital citizen is a person who obeys the legal rules about using digital technologies, and acts with respect and care for him/her, others and their property. In return, he/she expects the same respect to be shown to him/her.

There are three key parts to digital citizenship:

### **1. Respect and Protect Yourself:**

- Choosing online names that are suitable and respectful.
- Only inviting people you actually know and trust in the real world to be your friends in the online world.
- Remembering what I do on the Internet is creating my “digital footprint” which is forever.
- Only visiting sites that are appropriate and respecting the rules that websites or chat rooms have about age. Some sites are only for adults. If you wouldn’t feel comfortable showing the website to those in your family, then it’s inappropriate.
- Setting your privacy settings on social networking sites so that only the people you know can see you and your personal information.
- When using email, social networking sites or chat rooms, only putting information online that is appropriate and posting pictures that are suitable; not everyone seeing your profile or pictures will be friendly. Posting inappropriate content can affect your future.
- Always reporting cyberbullying or anything that happens online which makes you feel uncomfortable or is hurtful.

- Talking to trusted adults, like your parents and teachers, about your online experiences. This includes both the positive and the negative experiences.

## **2. Respect and Protect Others:**

- Show you care by not “flaming” or cyberbullying (sending hurtful or inflammatory messages) to other people or forwarding messages that are unkind or inappropriate.
- By not getting involved in conversations that are unkind, mean or bullying.
- By reporting any conversations you see that are unkind, mean or bullying. Imagine if the things being written were about you. If you would find them offensive, then they are inappropriate.
- Some websites are disrespectful because they show people behaving inappropriately or illegally – or are racist or sexual. Show your respect for others by avoiding these sites. If you visit one by accident, close it and tell your teacher or an adult.
- Show respect for others’ privacy by not trying to gain access to their online spaces without invitation and by not stalking them or sharing their pictures.

## **3. Respect and Protect Intellectual Property:**

- By not stealing other peoples’ property. It’s easy to download copyrighted music, games and movies, but piracy (downloading media that you have not purchased) is online stealing.
- By not sharing the music, movies, games and other software that you own with others.
- By checking that the information you are using is correct. Anyone can say anything on the web, so you need to check that the research is correct by evaluating and using reliable sites. When in doubt, ask your teacher or your parents.
- By not making changes or vandalizing websites when visiting them and reporting any damage that you find.

**Responsible Use Guideline Signature Page**  
**Grades 7-12**

By signing this agreement, I agree to always act in a manner that is respectful to me and others, and to act appropriately in a moral and ethical manner.

I agree to follow the principles of digital citizenship outlined in this agreement and accept that failing to follow these will have consequences.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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