

Descriptor Term: TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: RESPONSIBLE ACCESS AND USE	Descriptor: IJND-R1	Issued: DRAFT
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The Tupelo Public School District uses educational and administrative computers, school licensed software and other media, as well as computer networks and servers to support instruction, learning, and the academic success of students. Access to the Internet is one component of the electronic information resources available through the District and the Mississippi Department of Education's Frame Relay Network. The District serves as one of 29 (twenty-nine) Regional Hubs in the Mississippi Department of Education's Frame Relay Network.

The Internet is an electronic network connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual people. Students, teachers, support staff, parents, and school board members with access accounts on the District server ~~through the Mississippi Department of Education's Frame Relay Network~~ have limited access to:

- Electronic (e-mail) communication with people all over the world;
- Information and news from a variety of sources and research institutions;
- Public domain and shareware software;
- Discussion groups on a wide variety of educational topics;
- Access to many university libraries, the Library of Congress, and more.

Along with access to computers and people all over the world comes the possible availability of some material that may not be considered of educational value within the context of the school setting. The District utilizes both technical and human precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. ~~Local precautionary efforts are further enhanced by technical precautions incorporated into the Mississippi Department of Education's Frame Relay Network.~~ However, on a global network such as the Internet, it is not possible to control the content of all available materials.

The end user of the District's telecommunications, electronic information resources, and networked services must adhere to strict guidelines applicable to these systems. These guidelines are provided as part of this document so that students, teachers, support staff, parents/guardians, and community members are aware of their responsibilities. The District may modify these guidelines at any time by publishing modified guidelines on the system.

Network access accounts are a privilege and not a right. The signatures of agreement at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand the significance. Any user who violates the terms of this policy will immediately lose his/her access privileges, and may be subject to further disciplinary and/or legal action.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- I. RESPONSIBLE USE: The purposes of the District's telecommunications, electronic information resources, and networked services are to support instruction, learning, and the academic success of students consistent with the district's published mission statement. All users of the district's electronic resources must comply with this policy and the stated educational purposes. Additionally, the use of other organizations' networks or computing resources through District electronic resources and networks must comply with rules appropriate for those networks. Students, staff members, parents/guardians, community members who use the District's electronic information resources and networked services are notified of the general conditions as listed.

- A. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state law or agency guidelines is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene messages/images, or material protected by trade secret.
- B. Use for any non-educational purpose is prohibited.
- C. Use for commercial activity by any individual or organization, regardless of for-profit or not-for-profit status, is prohibited.
- D. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
- E. Use for illegal activities is prohibited.
- F. Use of the Internet through the District's networked services to play games, including multi-user games, etc. is prohibited.

- II. ACCESS PRIVILEGES: The use of District network access accounts is a PRIVILEGE, not a right; therefore, inappropriate use may result in cancellation of this privilege. Each student who receives an access account will participate in a discussion with an appropriate District faculty member pertaining to the proper use of the network. Access accounts will only be issued to students and others based on receipt of this signed agreement.

The superintendent or his designee may close an access account at any time for inappropriate use. Additionally, based on the recommendation of teachers and staff, the superintendent or his designee may deny, revoke, or suspend user accounts.

- III. ONLINE CONDUCT/NETWORK ETIQUETTE & PROTOCOL: The use of District electronic information resources and networked services must be in support of instruction, learning, and academic success of students and consistent with the mission statement of the District. Any action by a user that is determined by the superintendent or his designee to constitute an inappropriate use of electronic resources and networked services or to improperly restrict or inhibit other users' access to these resources or services is prohibited. Responsible access and use of District electronic resources and networked services requires that users abide by rules of acceptable on-line conduct and network etiquette, which include, but are not limited to, the listed items.

- A. Be Polite: All messages sent using District electronic resources and networked services shall be free of abusive language.
- B. Use Appropriate Language: All messages, submissions, publications, displays, shall be free of defamatory, inaccurate, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, illegal, or other inappropriate language.
- C. Conduct Appropriate Activities: Illegal activities and activities not overtly related to the mission statement of the District are prohibited. Activities related to, or in support of, illegal activities will be reported to the proper authorities.
- D. Respect the Privacy of Individuals: The user should not reveal his/her personal address, telephone number, or the address/telephone numbers of other individuals. All communications and information accessible via the District networked services should be considered public property. Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. The District system administrators have access to all e-mail. Messages relating to or in support of, illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities. Students should be aware that all network correspondence is open to District staff supervision and censorship.
- E. Appropriate Connectivity Usage: Individual network use should not limit or disrupt use of the network by others. This includes, but is not limited to, attempts to break into other computer networks, the destruction of another person's data, running large programs and applications, sending inappropriate amounts of electronic mail, using resources for games, or creating inappropriate files in terms of either size or

- number. Users should be aware that the District reserves the right to limit file space and to terminate the access privileges of users who violate this limitation.
- F. Responsibility for Services: The District will not be responsible for any damages suffered. Users and their parents/guardians agree to indemnify the District and the system administrators for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of any violation of the terms and conditions of this agreement. Use of any information obtained via the District is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its networked services.
- G. Security Issues and Responsibility: Because the District's electronic information resources and networked services are designed specifically for educational purposes and for use by students, security is of the highest priority. If a user feels that he/she can identify a security problem on the District network, he/she should notify an administrator as soon as possible. The problem should not be discussed, demonstrated or otherwise shared with others.

Access accounts provided by the District are not transferable or assignable. Any user who knowingly allows another individual to utilize the account assigned to him/her will immediately lose access privileges, and may be subject to further disciplinary or legal action. Attempts to fraudulently log on any network as a system administrator or another user will result in immediate cancellation of user privileges, and may result in further disciplinary and/or legal action.

Any user identified as a security risk, or having a history of problems with other computer networks, may be denied access to the electronic information resources and other computer services.

- H. Vandalism and Electronic Mischief: Vandalism to electronic information resources or networked services will result in the termination of access privileges and may result in further disciplinary and/or legal action. This includes, but is not limited to, any deliberate attempt to harm or destroy data, the intentional damage to hardware or software, and the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- I. Use of Copyrighted Material: Copyrighted material must not be placed on any system connected to the District Network without the author's/owner's permission. Only the owner or his/her designee may upload copyrighted material to the system.
- J. Use of Software Libraries: Software is provided to students as a curriculum resource. No student may install, upload, or download software without the express consent of the system administrator. System administrators reserve the right to refuse posting of files and to remove existing files. Misuse of District software will result in termination of access privileges and/or further disciplinary or legal action.
- K. Use of Printing Facilities: The printing facilities of the District are limited. Limitation on use of printing facilities is a right reserved by the District.
- L. Completion of Update: The District may periodically require new registration and account information from users as a condition of continued use. Users must notify the appropriate school official of any changes in account information.