GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT **FREE INTERNET ACCESS ** SIGNUP FOR TDS (Read Info Below To See If You Qualify)

Roger P. Milton

We are committed to keeping you connected.

TDS is committed to offering reliable, resilient communications service to our customers, in good times and in times of crisis. We anticipate the COVID-19 viral outbreak will increase Internet usage demands as more customers find themselves working, learning and otherwise staying at home. We'd like to share our operations support and business continuity strategy with you, so you can rest assured your service is supported.

Our Pandemic Tactical Team is actively monitoring the situation in a coordinated manner with federal, state, and local health and safety officials. We are implementing the following strategies and protocols to protect our customers and employees, while also keeping our network performing for you.

Specifically:

- 1. Our network infrastructure is built and maintained to anticipate future demand, not simply to keep up with what today might bring.
- 2. Our Business Continuity Plan further addresses crisis events. The cornerstone is a robust, redundant network with backup systems strategically placed to safeguard against unexpected disruptions in the network. We are taking steps to monitor available bandwidth and will increase staffing to address isolated incidents, if they arise.
- 3. Our Operations team leverages real-time technology with human expertise to match customer bandwidth demand with system performance.
- 4. Our geographically diverse workforce is able to transfer traffic, inquiries and workload to alternate locations if needed. Our workforce is also equipped to work from home as much as necessary to adapt to evolving CDC recommendations.
- 5. All non-essential travel and in-person meetings are being suspended in lieu of virtual meetings.
- 6. Any staff that interacts directly with customers has received additional hygiene training and sanitation toolkits, to ensure both the employee and the customer is fully protected.
- 7. Before scheduling business or in-home visits, customers will be asked if anyone in the home or business is exhibiting symptoms. To maximize everyone's safety and to prevent further spread of illness, our staff may ask for your cooperation in rescheduling service appointments if the status has changed by the time of the appointment.
- We would like to proactively ask for your patience when it comes to scheduling on-premise technician visits. We
 may experience some unavoidable periods of peak demand if we have staff following CDC recommendations for
 self-isolation.
- 9. Finally the hardest hit by the economic challenges attributed to the outbreak. Customers directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic will remain connected and late fees will be suspended for at least the next 60 days.
- 10. New customers with students or financial need will be eligible for **60 days of free internet access**, to help assist with work- or school-at-home scenarios.

If you have any service-related questions or concerns, please reach out to us at 1-866-278-2472. We sincerely wish the best for you and yours through this challenging time