

District: Sunflower County Consolidated School District
Section: I - Instructional Program
Policy Code: IJ - Technology and Instruction / Electronic Information Resources

TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUCTION / ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES

The Internet is a computer "network of networks" used by educators and others to gather and share information. When used to educate and inform, the Internet can be an effective, efficient classroom tool to promote student learning. Students should use the Internet to participate in distance learning activities, to ask questions of and consult with experts, to communicate with other students and individuals, and to locate additional educational resources.

This board believes that Library media specialists and teachers have a professional responsibility to work together to help students develop the intellectual skills needed to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and to evaluate and use the information to meet their educational goals. The Internet is a fluid, global environment in which information is constantly changing, thereby making it impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate. Availability of information to students on the Internet does not imply endorsement by this school district.

Administrative guidelines for student exploration and use of electronic information resources shall address issues of privacy, ethical use of information with respect to intellectual property, illegal uses of networks, and conditions of usage. In developing such guidelines, the administration will strive to preserve student rights to examine and use information to meet the educational goals and objectives of this school district.

The guidelines shall include language affirming that:

1. Students have the right to examine a broad range of opinions and ideas in the educational process, using and exchanging information and ideas on the Internet.
2. Students are responsible for the ethical and educational use of their own Internet accounts.
3. Students have a responsibility to respect the privacy of other Internet users.

Failure to abide by board policy and administrative regulation governing use of the district's system may result in the suspension and/or revocation of system access. Additionally, student violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion. Staff violation may also result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Fees or other charges may be imposed.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 18.

CROSS REF.: Policy IJ-R - Internet Use by Students

District: Sunflower County Consolidated School District
Section: I - Instructional Program
Policy Code: IJ-R - Internet/Technology Acceptable Use Policy

INTERNET USE BY STUDENTS

APPROPRIATE STUDENT USE

Use of the Internet for instructional programs is an educational tool which facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing and access to information. The complex nature of accessible networks and the potential information available to students utilizing the Internet require comprehensive administrative procedures in order to best serve the educational needs of students.

Students using the Internet shall comply with all applicable board policies and administrative procedures. The school board, through its administrative staff, reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by students. Staff and students are hereby advised that privacy in the use of the Internet is not guaranteed.

Additionally, use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Students found to be in violation of board policy and/or administrative procedure/s shall be subject to revocation of privileges and potential disciplinary and/or legal action.

This board makes no assurances of any kind, whether expressed or implied, regarding any Internet services provided. Neither the individual school nor school district is responsible for any damages the student/user suffers. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the student's own risk. This board and school district specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information or software obtained through its services.

INTERNET ACCESS AGREEMENT

In order for a student to gain access to the Internet, the student and student's parent(s) / guardian(s) must sign an Internet Access Agreement.

The superintendent is authorized to amend or revise the following board-approved initial administrative procedure as he/she deems necessary and appropriate consistent with this policy. The superintendent is further authorized to amend or revise the Internet Network Access Agreement with the advice of board counsel.

It must be understood by all concerned that the global and fluid nature of the Internet network's contents make it extremely difficult for the board to completely regulate and monitor the information received or sent by students. As such, the board cannot assure parents that students will be prevented from accessing undesirable materials or sending or receiving objectionable communications.

CROSS REF.: Policies EI - Computer Software Usage

IJ - Technology and Instruction / Electronic Information Resources

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Policy Code: IJB - CIPA Policy - Acceptable Use

Internet Safety Policy

CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA) POLICY

It is the belief of the Sunflower County Consolidated School District that the use of telecommunications, including the Internet, in instructional programs is an educational strategy which facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing, and access to information. Use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational mission, goals, and objectives of the school system.

It is the policy of Sunflower County Consolidated School District to:

- a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet and World Wide Web, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
- b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity;
- c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and
- d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

The superintendent shall ensure that the school district computers and other technology resources with Internet access comply with federal requirements regarding filtering software, Internet monitoring and Internet safety policies. The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for compliance with this policy.

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Sunflower County Consolidated School District online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage

includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Sunflower County Consolidated School District staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of minors using the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children’s Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or designee.

The superintendent or designee will provide age- appropriate training for students who use the district’s Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote the district’s commitment to:

- a) The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the district’s Internet Safety Policy;
- b) Student safety with regard to:
 - i. safety on the Internet;
 - ii. appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms;
 - iii. and cyber bullying awareness and response.

- b. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (“CIPA”).

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training and will follow the provisions of the District's acceptable use policies.

Legal References:

Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)]. Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

ROSS REF.: Policies IJ C Technology and Instruction / Electronic Information Resources

- IJ-E (1) - Internet Network Access Agreement
- IJ-E (2) - Internet Parental Consent Form
- IJ-R - Internet Use By Students
- IJA-E - Internet Etiquette
- IJA-P - Internet Administrative Procedures