

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.

SOURCE: Mississippi School Boards Association

LEGAL REF: Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 18

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