



## Internet Appropriate Use Policy

*Board Approved: August 27, 2020*

*Noxubee County School District  
P. O. Box 540  
Macon, MS 39341*

Noxubee County School District (NCSD) is pleased to offer to its students, faculty, and staff access to the Internet in accordance with the terms and conditions of this policy. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting hundreds of thousands of computers and millions of individual users globally. This computer technology will help propel our schools through the communication age by allowing students and staff to access and to use resources from distant computers, communicate and collaborate with other individuals and groups, and significantly expand their available information base.

### Overview

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the users who must adhere to strict guidelines. To this end, Congress has passed and President signed into law, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA requires that schools receiving certain federal funds, including E-Rate discounts and Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, put into place Internet Safety policies. These Internet safety policies must include a technology protection measure for blocking access to "visual depictions" of obscene material, child pornography, and material that is "harmful to minors" when minors are accessing the computer. CIPA also requires that the Internet safety policy include monitoring of all online activities of minors. Additionally, the policy must address all of the following: (a) access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web, (b) The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications, (c) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking", and other unlawful activities by minors online, (d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and (e) measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Recognizing that no filtering solution can be 100% effective, it is understood that all technology protection measures do not and will not work perfectly. In complying with CIPA, schools are expected to engage in a "good faith effort" to abide by the requirements of CIPA. CIPA does not create a private right to action, meaning that the discovery of objectionable material on a computer cannot result in a lawsuit complaining that a school violated CIPA.

The Noxubee County School District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms as well as cyberbullying awareness and response.

## **Responsible Use of District Issued Technology**

The Noxubee County School District provides the privilege of technology for use in the schools and for distance learning. The use of any district technology, including use of devices and technology under the Mississippi Equity in Distance Learning Grant Program, shall only be used for its intended purpose and for school purposes. The Noxubee County School District will provide security by using web filtering, classroom management, and mobile device management (MDM) software during on and off campus for the devices.

The Noxubee County School District shall assume the control of ownership and liability for personal devices and other equipment purchased under the Equity in Distance Learning Grant Program until the personal device or other equipment no longer serves the school or related school purposes for which it was acquired and is sold by public auction under Section 17-25-25, is traded in to a vendor as part of a subsequent purchase, or dispose of if it is no longer functioning.

The Noxubee County School District capital asset staff at the district and schools shall compile and maintain an inventory list of all devices purchased and issued to students, teachers, administrators, and other staff, as well as any supporting technology or equipment used to support the school's distance learning plan.

Use of the Noxubee County School District's network shall be solely for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information for this district in the furtherance of education, research, and job-related activities. The network also supports the educational and instructional endeavors of students and employees of the Noxubee County School District.

These guidelines are provided so that you, the user and/or parent of the user are aware of the responsibilities you are about to assume. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a NCS D user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied.

The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

## **NCS D Internet Terms and Conditions of Use**

### **Personal Safety**

1. User will not disclose, use, disseminate or divulge personal and/or private information about himself/herself, minors or any others including personal identification such as, but not limited to, credit card information, social security numbers, telephone numbers, addresses, etc.
2. User will immediately report to NCS D authorities any attempt by other Internet users to engage in inappropriate conversations or personal conduct.

### **Illegal Activity**

1. User agrees not to access, transmit or retransmit any materials(s) in furtherance of any illegal act or conspiracy to commit any illegal act in violation of United States, Mississippi, local government, or NCSD laws, policies or regulations.
2. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit: copyrighted materials (including plagiarism), threatening, harassing, or obscene material, pornographic material, or material protected by trade secret, and/or any other material that is inappropriate to minors.
3. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit any material that promotes violence or the destruction of persons or property by devices including, but not limited to, the use of firearms, explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs, incendiary devices, or other similar materials.
4. User shall not use the network for any illegal activity including, but not limited to, unauthorized access including hacking.
5. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit language that may be considered offensive, defamatory, or abusive.
6. User shall not access, transmit or retransmit information that could cause danger or disruption or engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
7. User shall not access, transmit or retransmit information that harasses another person or causes distress to another person.

#### System Resource Limits

1. User shall only use the NCSD system for educational and career development activities and limited, high quality self-discovery activities as approved by NCSD faculty for a limited amount of time per week.
2. User agrees not to download large files unless it is absolutely necessary. If absolutely necessary to download large files, user agrees to download the file at the time when the system is not being heavily used.
3. User agrees not to post chain letters or engage in "spamming" (that is, sending an annoying or unnecessary message to large number of people).
4. User agrees to immediately notify his/her teacher or other school administrator should user access inappropriate information. This will assist protecting user against a claim of intentional violation of this policy.

#### User Rights

1. The Internet is considered a limited forum, similar to a school newspaper, and therefore NCSD may restrict user's right to free speech for valid educational reasons. NCSD will not restrict user's right to free speech on the basis of disagreement with the opinions expressed by user.
2. User shall have the responsibility to use computer resources for academic purposes only. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet. The only exception will be for academic research by a staff member with the approval of school administration.
3. User should not expect files stored on school-based computer to remain private. Authorized staff will periodically inspect folders and logs of network usage and will be kept at all times. Routine review and maintenance

of the system may indicate that user has violated this policy, school codes, municipal law, state law or federal law. Parents of minor users shall have the right to inspect the contents of user's files.

4. NCS D will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.

Individual schools within the district may create additional guidelines and procedures consistent with this policy. Such guidelines and procedures will be appropriate for the electronic information resources being used and the students served at the school.

### **Consequences for Failure to Follow Terms and Conditions of Internet Use Policy**

There will be consequences for any user who fails to follow NCS D and school guidelines and policies. The consequences may include paying for damages, denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law. At the discretion of NCS D, law enforcement authorities may be involved and any violations of state and/or federal law may result in criminal or civil prosecution. When user is using the NCS D system, it may seem as though these policies could be easily broken and that the user would not get caught. This is not true. Electronic footprints are left behind on a machine each time it is used, and the potential for apprehension always exists.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty/Staff Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date