

Tishomingo County School District
Internet/Technology Acceptable Use Policy
(Policy IJ-R)

INTERNET ACCESS:

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the Tishomingo County School District (TCSO). We are very pleased to bring this access to TCSO and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in our schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. 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.

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.

NETWORK RULES:

Tishomingo County School District provides adequate Wi-Fi on all campuses. This includes a wireless access point in every classroom and academic area. Students and Employees are required to use Wi-Fi provided by the district when using devices owned by TCSO. The use of Wireless Hot Spots is prohibited on all TCSO campuses. These include but are not limited to Cell Phones and Mi-Fi devices that can be used as personal Wireless Access Points.

Tishomingo County School District provides an Ethernet network to every classroom and academic area. These Ethernet ports are put in place to connect TCSO owned desktop computers, printers, etc. to the TCSO network. Students and Employees are prohibited from plugging any device not owned by TCSO into Ethernet ports and should not access the wireless network without prior approval. These include, but are not limited to laptops, desktops, printers, media players, virtual assistant technology (i.e. Amazon Echo, Apple TV, Amazon Fire, Roku, etc.) and gaming consoles.

Tishomingo County School District provides content filtering to comply with CIPA requirements for safe Internet browsing of minors. Any attempt to bypass this content filter with the use of proxies or any other method is a direct violation of this agreement.

ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE USES OF TECHNOLOGY:

Tishomingo County School District technology resources will be used only for learning, teaching, and administrative purposes consistent with the District's mission and goals.

Students are prohibited from installing ANY software on district owned computers or mobile devices. Employees are allowed to install software that has been approved by District Technology Department.

Improper use of any computer, mobile device, or the network is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Accessing, transmitting or retransmitting:
 - Any material(s) in furtherance of any illegal act or conspiracy to commit any illegal act in violation of United States, Mississippi, local government, or Mississippi State Department laws, policies or regulations
 - Copyrighted materials (including plagiarism and AI), threatening, harassing, or obscene material, pornographic material, or material protected by trade secret, and/or other material that is inappropriate to minors
 - 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 any similar materials
 - Language that may be considered offensive, defamatory, abusive or any forms of cyber bullying
 - Information that could cause danger or disruption or engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks
 - Information that harasses another person or causes distress to another person
- Using the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users
- Participating in chat sessions outside of classroom activities
- Installing software not approved by Technology Department
- Downloading files from the Internet that do not relate to classroom activities or administrative tasks
- Purchasing or selling goods and/or services via the Internet
- Disclosing, using, disseminating or divulging personal and/or private information about himself/herself, minors or any others including personal identification information
- Attempting to bypass the TCSO Content Filter through Proxies, VPNs, etc.
- Attempting to "hack" network resources including, but not limited to servers, switches, access points, routers, computers, mobile devices, and printers

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP:

Tishomingo 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 cyber bullying awareness and response.

EMAIL:

Tishomingo County School District provides a Google Apps for Education (@tcsk12.com) account for student and employee email services. TCSO creates and manages account information (Login/Password). Employees and Students are responsible for maintaining the information inside their

account (Emails/Contacts). TCSO does not archive employee or student email. Student email accounts are restricted to prevent sending emails or receiving emails outside of the tcsk12.com domain.

Tishomingo County School District discourages using outside email (i.e. Yahoo, Outlook, etc.) on the network. All official Teacher to Parent, Teacher to Student, or Staff to Staff email must be communicated using tcsk12.com email account. Employees should refrain from using their school email for personal use or subscriptions.

TCSO does maintain the right to access employee or student email if deemed necessary, with Superintendent permission only.

Users should use appropriate language and should only communicate with other people as allowed by District policy or the teacher or administrator. Users are expected to communicate with the same appropriate, safe, mindful, courteous manner online as offline. Email usage may be monitored and archived.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

At Tishomingo County School District (TCSO), we use Google Workspace/Apps, and we are seeking your permission to provide and manage a Google Workspace for Education account for your child. Google Workspace for Education is a set of education productivity tools from Google including Gmail, Drive, Calendar, Docs, Classroom, and more used by tens of millions of students and teachers around the world. At TCSO, students will use their Google accounts to complete assignments, communicate with their teachers, and learn 21st century digital citizenship skills. Student email accounts for grades 9-12 are restricted to prevent sending emails or receiving emails outside of the tcsk12.com domain.

By signing the Student/Parent Technology Agreement and/or the Acceptable Use Policy, parents/guardian give permission for Tishomingo County School District to create/maintain a Google Workspace for Education account for their child.

SECURITY:

Tishomingo County School District has measures in place to protect end users on our network through the use of Firewalls, Content Filters, and Malware/Antivirus software. These measures are not always 100% effective and users should take reasonable safeguards against security threats over the TCSO network. This includes not opening or distributing infected files or programs and not opening files or programs of unknown or untrusted origin. Users should not share personal information over the TCSO network.

In the event a user feels their device has been compromised or infected, they should immediately notify the Technology Department. Employees and Staff are never to attempt to remove a virus or malware on their own. This includes deleting files, downloading Malware/Virus removal tools, or installing Antivirus software.

MONITORING:

Tishomingo County School District has the ability to monitor data transmitted over the TCSO network at any time. Data transferred can be tracked and identified and users held liable if their use of the network violates established policies, regulations, or laws. The content filter used at TCSO has the ability to flag and notify the Technology Department if a user searches for or accesses sites that contain certain keywords. Computers that continue to be flagged for inappropriate sites can be remotely monitored and

screen captured or recorded. Data stored on devices owned by TCS D are the property of TCS D. This data includes, but is not limited to email, text documents, images, music, and other digital or electronic files.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:

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 compliance 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 objectional material on a device cannot result in a lawsuit complaining that a school violated CIPA.

The Tishomingo County Special Municipal Separate School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it provides. The TCS D will not be responsible for any damages suffered while on this system. These damages include loss of data as a result of delays, non-deliveries, miss-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the system or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the information system is at your own risk. TCS D specifically disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained through its services.

Tishomingo County School District will not disclose personal information about Students on websites - such as addresses, telephone number, or Social Security Number.

Acceptable Use Policy Violation:

Adopted June 2023

1st Offense:	1 day of ISD; iPad stays at school 1 week
2nd Offense:	3 days of ISD; iPad stays at school rest of semester
3rd Offense:	Alternative School for 15 days - iPad stays at school rest of the school year
4th Offense & Beyond:	Alternative School for designated placement time determined by the administration
***The school administration has the discretion to move up the discipline ladder as deemed appropriate due to the nature of the Acceptable Use Policy violation	

EXCEPTION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

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 TCS 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 indicated the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

All terms and conditions as stated in this document are applicable to the TCS D. These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, and the United States of America.

STUDENT:

I (*please print student name*) _____ understand and will abide by the terms and conditions of the Network system. I understand that any violation of the regulation is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action.

User Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

If you are under the age of 18 a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

As the parent or guardian of this student I have read the terms and conditions of Network access. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and TCS D has taken available precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for TCS D to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent or Guardian (*please print*) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____