

Descriptor Term: INTERNET USE POLICY Rules and Regulations	Descriptor Code: GAHC-R / JCBA-R	Board Approved: 6/12/2006
	Rescinds: GAHC / IFBGA	Previously Approved: 3/08/2004

INTRODUCTION

The Gulfport School District is pleased to offer to its students, faculty and staff access to the Internet and the District's Wide Area Network in accordance with the terms and conditions of this policy.

The goal of the District in providing this service is to promote educational excellence and student achievement in our schools through increased access to resources, information and global communication. Network resources are for educational purposes and to carry out legitimate business of the District.

Reliable operation of the Network is dependent upon responsible conduct of its users. Therefore, it is necessary for the Board of Trustees to develop, maintain, and distribute procedures for the use of technology, telecommunications, and services that are in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.

REGULATIONS

System Resources

1. The Gulfport School District does not represent or warrant that the functions of the Network system will meet any specific requirements or that it will be error free or uninterrupted; nor shall the District be liable for any direct or indirect, incidental, or consequential damages (including lost data and information) sustained or incurred in connection with the use, operation or inability to use the Network system.
2. Any action by a user that is determined by the District to improperly restrict or inhibit other users from accessing and using the Network is strictly prohibited.
3. Users will not use the Network in a manner that encumbers disk space, processors, bandwidth or other system resources so as to interfere with normal use of services on the Network or other systems or networks ("spamming", "denial of service" attack).
4. Use for commercial activities is prohibited unless prior written consent from the District has been granted.

Security

1. Users will not attempt to circumvent user authentication or security of any host, network, or account on the Network or the Internet.

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2. Any form of tampering, including snooping, hacking, or cracking in order to gain access to information is prohibited.
3. Users are never to give any information about the District's network or computer system to unauthorized individuals or groups.

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

1. Individually identifiable information about a child such as the child's full name, home address, email address, telephone number or other information that may allow individuals to identify or contact a child will not be made available via District, school or teacher web sites.
2. Users shall not access, transmit, retransmit, submit, publish, display or print any defamatory, abusive, profane, sexually-oriented, threatening, racially offensive, illegal written or visual depictions of obscene material, child pornography and other materials considered harmful or inappropriate.
3. Users shall not access, transmit or retransmit material that is threatening, disruptive, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion or political beliefs.
4. Users shall not access, transmit, retransmit, submit, publish, display or print copyrighted materials (including plagiarized materials), threatening, harassing, or obscene material, pornographic material, or material protected by trade secret, and/or any other material that may be inappropriate for minors.
5. Users 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.
6. Any transmission or reception of material that is libelous, slanderous, gang-related or incites students and/or staff so as to create a clear and present danger of (a) the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, (b) the violation of law and/or administrative regulations, or (c) the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the District or any school in the District is prohibited.

Safety

1. The District may authorize the release of directory information as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), for internal administrative purposes, approved educational projects, activities, and publications. Parental permission must be obtained prior to the publication of student directory information.
2. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person or use another person's password.
3. Access to student information is limited to authorized parties and will be permitted only in support of district educational goals and objectives. Parties granted access will fall under the auspices and regulations of this policy and may be required to complete and sign an *Oath of Confidentiality*.
4. Users will immediately report to district officials any attempt of others to engage in

unauthorized activities, inappropriate communication, or prohibited use of the Internet and district resources.

Email

Users shall not (a) send mass email mailings of any notice that are not related to District business, (b) send a large number of email messages or singularly large email messages of a single address

Users shall not (a) send mass email mailings of any notice that are not related to district business, (b) send a large number of email messages or singularly large email messages of a single address in order to flood a recipient's mailbox, (c) forge email headers to obscure the true originator of an email message, (d) create or participate in pyramid schemes or chain letters, and (e) send harassing email letters, either by language, size or frequency.

Monitoring

Files stored on district servers, computers, electronic mail and other resources of the Network are not private and are subject to inspection and/or monitoring by district officials. Network administrators reserve the right to monitor any and all activity on the Network.

Warranties/Indemnification

The District is not responsible for material or information accessed on the Internet by users and shall not be responsible for the impact or effect of the information on the user. The District specifically disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained via the Internet.

The District makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its Network and the Internet. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages, or costs of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user arising through the use of the Network or Internet under this policy. As this policy is a legal and binding document, use of the network and district computer resources constitutes agreement by each user to comply with the terms set forth in this policy.

Process for Restricting Internet Access

If a parent/guardian does not wish a student to have access to the Internet, that parent/guardian shall send a letter to that effect to the school principal. Copies of all such letters shall be placed in the child's permanent record.

Sanctions

1. Use of the Network and its resources is a privilege, not a right. Violations of the regulations of this policy may result in the denial, revocation, suspension, termination of the user's privileges and/or disciplinary action that may include student expulsion, employee dismissal, and/or notification of appropriate authorities.

2. Vandalism may result in cancellation of privileges and/or disciplinary action. Vandalism includes any malicious attempt to access, damage, delete, infect, destroy or alter data files, folders, or directories.
3. GSD will fully cooperate with local, state, and/or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through use of the District Network, the Internet or any of its resources.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act; Children's Online Privacy Protection Act; Public Law 106-554; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 USC § 1232g)

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User's Name: _____ (Please Print) Last Name First Name Social Security # (last 4 digits)
Date: _____

**INTERNET USE POLICY #GAHC-R / JCBA-R - RULES AND REGULATIONS
USER CONTRACT**

I certify that I have read Policy GAHC-R / JCBA-R. I understand and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the policy. I understand any violation of this policy may result in temporary or permanent loss of Network and/or Internet access and/or my user account; may result in disciplinary action; and may constitute a criminal offense. I, the undersigned, agree not to hold the District responsible for and waive any claim for any loss or damage arising as a result of his/her use of the system and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District from any loss or claim which may arise as a result of my, the undersigned, actions or failure to act in connection with any use of the system.

As a user, I hereby agree to comply with the foregoing terms and conditions.

(Signature)

(Date)