

Acceptable Use Policy

The Southwestern Consolidated School Corporation of Shelby County is pleased to provide appropriate, reliable and accessible tools that enhance student achievement and increase staff productivity through the integration of technology. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in our schools through the facilitation of resource sharing, communication and the use of technology as a learning tool.

INTERNET USAGE

The Internet connects thousands of computers and millions of users all over the world. Through the Internet, students and teachers have access to a vast volume of curriculum related resources.

Freedom of expression is a right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. It includes the right to freedom of speech and the right to receive information. These rights extend to all members of our society including students, teachers, and administrators. Southwestern Consolidated School Corporation of Shelby County in acting as a facilitator helps all members of our school community to access information regardless of format or technology. This access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship.

In making decisions regarding student access to the internet, Southwestern Consolidated School Corporation of Shelby County considers its own stated educational goals and objectives. While preparing our students for their roles as citizens and future employees, we realize that electronic information research skills are now fundamental to the educational process. In giving students access to the internet we enable them to explore thousands of resources around the world. This same access also allows contact with people from around the world. The school district expects that teachers will integrate the use of the internet throughout the curriculum. This use will follow and include proper guidance and instruction to students in its correct use. Teachers and administrators are to ensure that access from school to internet resources be structured in ways which

have students use only those resources that have been evaluated prior to use. While students will be able to move beyond those resources to those that may not have been previewed by staff, they shall be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to the learning objectives. Teachers and administration will make every reasonable effort to ensure that students are accessing appropriate information.

When students access the internet outside the school environment, families bear the responsibility for the same guidance of internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, radio, movies and other potentially offensive media.

Students who use district provided internet access must have the permission of and must be supervised by our schools' professional staff. Students utilizing school provided internet access are responsible for civilized behavior online just as they would be in the classroom or other campus areas. The same behavior that is expected in the classroom will be required when using internet resources.

When using school provided access, students and staff should remember that access is a privilege, not a right. Use of the internet entails responsibility. The sole purpose of school provided access is to facilitate research and the meeting of educational objectives. To remain users of internet services, students and staff must support these educational objectives. Failure to do so may result in loss of Internet access privileges.

Students should expect that files stored on school computers may not be private. Such files will be treated like school lockers and will be subject to review by school administrators and faculty to ensure that school objectives and behavioral expectations are being met. Failure to comply may result in loss of privileges. Likewise, the district reserves the right to inspect any staff members files that are stored on school owned computers, servers, disks or other equipment.

The following uses are not permitted:

1. Accessing, uploading, downloading, distributing or printing of pornographic, obscene or sexually

explicit material.

2. Transmitting or printing obscene, abusive or sexually explicit language
3. Violating any local, state or federal statute
4. Vandalizing, damaging or disabling the property of another individual or corporation
5. Accessing another individual's information or files without permission
6. Violating copyrights or otherwise using the intellectual property of another individual or organization
7. Purchasing goods or services via the school corporation account on the internet except as specifically permitted by the school district treasurer.
8. Using or attempting to use a proxy server to bypass the content filter.

Any violation of Southwestern Consolidated School District of Shelby County's policy and rules will result in the loss of district provided access to the internet and network. Additional disciplinary action may be taken at the building level. If local, state, or federal statutes have been violated, the proper authorities will be notified for further action.

DISCLAIMER

The Southwestern Consolidated School District of Shelby County makes no warranties of any kind, neither expressed nor implied, for the internet access it is providing. The district will not be responsible for:

1. any damages users may suffer due to loss of data or interruption of service.
2. the accuracy, nature or quality of information stored on school media
3. the accuracy nature or quality of information gained though the internet
4. personal property used to access school provided internet access
5. unauthorized financial obligations resulting from school provided internet access.

SECURITY

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when networked with many users. If you feel you can identify any security issue, you must notify the technology coordinator or school

administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Never log on with another person's identity. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with computers may be denied access to the network.

VANDALISM

Vandalism will result in cancellation of all computer privileges and possible legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of other users, organizations, schools, or networks. This includes but is not limited to the creation and/or introduction of worms, viruses etc.

Student Specific Policies

The Southwestern Consolidated School Corporation reserves the right to revoke a student's technology privileges within the school setting at any time for misuse and/or misconduct with consequences resulting in but not limited to:

- Revoked privileges for as long as the teacher, principal and/or technology coordinator deem appropriate
- Suspension and/or expulsion from school
- Removal of student from technology course with an incomplete as a final grade
- Financial restitution for damage to school hardware or software

Misuse and/or misconduct may include but is not limited to:

- Any violation of local, state or federal law
- Copyright infringement, specifically the copying, installation or use of illegal or improperly licensed software or files
- Alteration, tampering, or vandalizing of hardware or software
- Use of personal disks, CDs, removable drives, MP3 players or other portable devices (iPods, netbooks, etc.) unless specified by the supervising teacher
- Game playing. Teachers may allow educational games and game sites as they apply to curriculum.
- Use of a computer without an authorized staff member present

- Use of commands or programs that may alter the appearance, performance or operation of the computer hardware or software
- Use of food and/or beverages near a computer or the use of gum in any computer lab
- Saving files on the hard drive unless directed by the teacher. Such files may be erased without notice.
- The sending of messages over the network, including e-mail and instant messaging with the exception of e-mail specifically designed for classroom purposes
- Logging into the network as another user
- Allowing another user to use your password or using another's password
- Modifying files, programs, or data belonging to others
- Misrepresenting other students through the use of technology
- Disrupting the operation of the computer through abuse of hardware or software
- Malicious use of the computer to transmit mail, harassment, obscene, profane, vulgar or sexually explicit statements or materials and/or discriminatory remarks.

Southwestern Consolidated School District of Shelby County

Internet and Computer Acceptable Use Agreement

Students and Staff

I understand and will abide by the above Internet Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above 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 legal action may be result.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian

(Must be signed if student is under 18)

As the parent or guardian of the above named student, I have read the Internet Usage Agreement.

I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and that precautions have been taken to eliminate the access to controversial or inappropriate material. However, I also realize that it is impossible for Southwestern Consolidated schools of Shelby County 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 permission for my child to use the internet at school and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Printed Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____