

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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STAFF AND STUDENT ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC MEDIA	Descriptor Code: JHF	Issued Date: 08/06/2007
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3 The Morgan County Board of Education recognizes that as telecommunications and other new
4 technologies change the way in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by
5 members of the society, those developments may also alter instruction and student learning. The Board
6 generally supports access by students to rich information resources along with the development by staff of
7 appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources.

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9 In the past, instructional and library media materials could usually be screened, prior to use, by
10 committees of educators and community members intent upon subjecting all such materials to reasonable
11 selection criteria. Because they may lead to any publicly available fileservers in the world,
12 telecommunications will open classrooms to electronic information resources which have not been
13 screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

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15 Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future
16 employees during an Age of Information. The Board expects that staff will blend thoughtful use of such
17 information throughout the curriculum and that the staff will provide guidance and instruction to students
18 in the appropriate use of such resources.

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20 Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or
21 a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for
22 behavior and communications apply to all users of the networked communications system. The network
23 is provided for students to conduct research, explore the world, and communicate with others. Access to
24 network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner.

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26 Any student use of the telecommunications and electronic information resources provided by the Internet
27 will be permitted only after submission of permission/agreement forms (see JHF-exhibit) by parents of
28 minor students (under 18 years of age) and by students themselves.

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30 Access to telecommunications will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and
31 bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that
32 the benefits to students from access, in the form of information resources and opportunities for
33 collaboration, exceed the disadvantages.

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35 Ultimately, however, students and parents/guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying
36 the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end,
37 the Morgan County Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for
38 independent access.

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40 *Administrative Regulations*

41 These regulations shall apply to the implementation of the policy "Student Access to Electronic Media."

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43 *Program Development*

44 District personnel will review and evaluate resources in order to offer "home pages" and menus of
45 materials which are instructionally sound. Staff will provide developmentally appropriate guidance to

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JHF-Student Access to Electronic Media (Cont'd)

students as they make use of telecommunications and electronic information resources to conduct research and other studies related to the district curriculum.

All students will be informed by staff of their rights and responsibilities as users of the district network prior to gaining access to that network, either as an individual user or as a member of a class or group.

As much as possible, access to district information resources will be designed in ways that point students to those sites which have been reviewed and evaluated prior to use. Since students will be able to move beyond those resources to others which have not been evaluated by staff, they will be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to the learning objectives. Students may pursue electronic research independent of staff supervision only if they have been granted parental permission and have submitted all required forms. Permission is not transferable and may not be shared.

Internet Rules

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Independent access to network services is provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parental permission is required for minors. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility. Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. In order to retain access to the school system network, users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Network storage areas will be treated similarly to school lockers. Administrators and teachers may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will be private. Also see board policies EBCC, BJ, JT, BK, and JHF.

The following activities are not permitted by users of the system networks:

- Accessing materials that is profane or obscene (pornography)
- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using or attempting to discover other users' passwords
- Trespassing in other users' folders, work or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Employing the network for commercial purposes
- Any action which violates existing Board Policy or public law
- Bypassing internet filters provided by MCS, the state of Tennessee or the service provider
- Logging off or rebooting of any computer while it is being monitored

Sanctions

Violations may result in loss of access to the systems computers and/or network.

Additional disciplinary action may be determined at the building level in line with existing practice regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be contacted.

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JHF-Student Access to Electronic Media (Cont'd)

User Agreement/Parental Permission

The attached form shall be completed, signed by the student (and parent if student is under 18) and placed on file with the school prior to student's access to the district computer network.

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JHF-EXHIBIT

MORGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS INTERNET ACCESS USER AGREEMENT/ PARENT PERMISSION FORM

Student: I understand and will abide by the provision and conditions of this agreement and all Board policies. I realize the Internet account is designed for educational purposes only. I understand that any violation of the above provisions and other board policies may result in disciplinary action, the revoking of my user account, and any appropriate legal action.

I also agree to report any misuse of the Internet to the system administrator or to my teacher.

Furthermore, I understand that misuse can come in many forms, but can be viewed as any messages sent or received that indicate or suggest pornography, unethical, or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, inappropriate language and other issues described by law or by Board policy.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature _____ Date

Parent/Guardian: As the parent/guardian of _____,

I have read this agreement and understand that the Internet Account is designed for educational purposes only. I also understand that it is impossible for Morgan County Schools to restrict access to all controversial materials. I also agree to report any misuse of the information system to the system administrator or my child's teacher.

Furthermore, I understand that misuse can come in many forms, but can be viewed as any messages sent or received that indicate or suggest pornography, unethical, or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, inappropriate language and other issues described by law or by Board policy.

I accept responsibility for supervision of my child's Internet use both in and out of the school setting.

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

Parent Name (print)

Parent Signature _____ Date

Adopted 1996 Revised 7/98

Reference: Board Policy "Student Access to Electronic Media"