

	<b>MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY</b>		
	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Number:	Date Adopted:
	INTERNET ACCESS BY STUDENTS (REGULAR AND EXTENDED TIME)	STU 37	9/96
	Revision Adopted:		

The Board supports the right of students (regular or extended school students) to have reasonable access to various information formats and believes it incumbent upon students to use this privilege in an appropriate and responsible manner.

Telecommunications, electronic information sources, and networked services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources. In the past, instructional and library media materials could usually be screened prior to use by committees of educators and community members intent upon subjecting all such materials to reasonable selection criteria. Because telecommunications may lead to any publicly available fileserver in the world, it will open classrooms to electronic information resources which have not been screened by educators for use by students.

Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. The Board expects staff to blend thoughtful use of such information throughout the curriculum and to provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources.

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior when using school computer networks just as they are responsible for appropriate behavior in all school settings. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply to all users of the networked communications system. The network is provided for students to conduct research, explore the world, and communicate with others. Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a responsible manner.

Independent student use of telecommunications and electronic information resources will be permitted upon submission of permission forms and agreement forms by parents of minor students (under 18 years of age).

Access to telecommunications will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board believes that the benefits to students from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, however, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. The Murfreesboro City School Board supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for independent access.

Administrative Directive 44 implements this policy.