

West Tennessee School for the Deaf STUDENT INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

Internet access is available to the students of the West Tennessee School for the Deaf. We are pleased to be able to provide this tool for education, innovation, and communication through the Internet. Internet access is not a right but a privilege to each student at WTSD.

The Internet is a system of networks that connect millions of computers across the world. It can be potentially dangerous and should be used with caution. To eliminate part of this danger, we are CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) certified using a site-blocking system to block out certain Internet sites. This service is provided by Websense to all schools across the state on the k-12 network.

Using content filtering technologies and network security measures designed for Tennessee K-12 schools, Websense provides safe Internet access. Educators and parents know that their students and children are protected from online pornography, hate, violence, and predatory individuals. This solution provides WTSD compliance with CIPA's definition of "a technology protection measure" required to protect students. Faculty and staff must also report any improper student use of the Internet, e-mail, or network to school administration.

Students will be taught Internet Safety throughout the year. Our students must also sign an Acceptable Use Policy which directs them on appropriate behavior while using the computer, Internet, and other technology devices. If the student breaks any of the rules or policies, their computer privileges will be revoked and school discipline procedures will be taken.

Teachers and staff at the School for the Deaf participate in professional development for technology throughout the year. Teachers are instructed on methods to incorporate technology in their classroom and best use of available technologies. We also have assistive technology help available during and after school throughout the year. The professional development that we offer for teachers and staff helps them educate students on technologies and policies.

Parent/guardian technology education is also important. This document summarizes our student policy, definitions, and procedures on Internet use and safety. Parents are encouraged to ask any questions that they may have regarding the Internet, computers, devices, or technology policies.

The West Tennessee School for the Deaf Internet Safety and Policies will be reviewed and updated each year by the Principal.