



Monroe County School District

Acceptable Use Policy for Networked Communications

It is a general policy that Monroe County School District network facilities (i.e., computers, electronic mail, conferences, bulletin boards, data bases, and access to the Internet), referred to as "the network telecommunications," are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of the District School Board of Monroe County and Board Policy. The following guidelines have been established for all users of the network. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the loss of access to the network or other disciplinary action.

The primary purpose of the MCSD Network is to support students and teachers in the process of teaching and learning and to support the business operations and communications of the School district. Any violation of the principles and policies in this document may result in disciplinary actions (including suspension or expulsion) and possible legal action.

Public Information

Electronic communications and documents should never be considered completely private. The District School Board of Monroe County is subject to Florida Statutes regarding public information access. As such, all electronic messages and documents are a matter of public record. Examples: all email, files and documents saved on district computers or networks

Acceptable Uses of the Network/Internet/Email

- Participating in activities which support learning and teaching in Monroe County Schools
- Participating in electronic conferences, bulletin boards, email, databases, and access to the Internet to support curriculum.
- Students should use the Internet/network for appropriate educational purposes and research.
- Students should use the Internet/network only with the permission of designated school staff.
- Students should be considerate of other users on the network. Cyber bullying is unlawful behavior.
- Students must use appropriate language for school situations and must not use vulgar or profane language or images, including those with implied vulgarity and/or profanity.
- Students should immediately report any security problems or breeches of these responsibilities to the supervising teacher.
- Students must adhere to copyright laws and plagiarism rules when using the Internet.

Unacceptable Uses of the Network/Internet/Email

- Using impolite, abusive, or objectionable language or sending and displaying offensive or obscene messages or pictures. Sexual harassment, discrimination of any sort referencing age, sex, gender, religion, race or inference to drugs, guns or violence will not be tolerated.
- Using the network in ways that violate federal, state, or local laws, including use of network resources to commit forgery, or to create a forged instrument
- Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web, including disclosure of personal information when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications
- Activities which cause congestion of the network or otherwise interfere with the work of others (i.e. chain letters, jokes, multimedia greeting cards, and e-mail backgrounds, enhancements and stationery)
- Using the networked communications for commercial purposes or financial gain
- Sending, receiving or copying copyrighted materials without permission of the author
- Avoiding security and/or proper log in procedures
- Unauthorized access to another's resources, programs, or data.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
- Students must not intentionally degrade or disrupt Internet network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, unauthorized redirection of school web pages or violating copyright laws. Vandalizing networked resources, including the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- Outside email services such as GMAIL, Yahoo mail, etc. within our network.
- Instant messaging or VOIP services.
- Installation of unauthorized software on networked computers

- Students must not use proxy avoidance sites (sites that allow the user to bypass the district Internet filter)
- or other sites indicated as blocked . Use of these sites violates this contract and could result in loss of Internet access and/or other disciplinary actions
- Falsifying one’s identity to others while using the network.
- Students must not share user IDs and passwords .
- Students must not give out personal information about themselves or where they live.
- Students may not have access publicly provided Internet Service Providers or e-mail services
- Students must not attach or transfer media from a personal storage device to district hardware without permission from an appropriate staff member.
- Students must not work directly on teacher, school, or district department websites without express written permission from the district Web Administrator and Director for Instructional Technology.
- Students must not use the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers and other staff.

Use of District-Created E-Mail Distribution Lists

The purpose of all mailing lists maintained on Monroe County School District’s network is to provide a fast, convenient medium for written communications. Distribution lists are to be used only for school district business or in support of teaching and learning activities.

Official Correspondence

It is the responsibility of the originator to properly maintain copies of all electronic documents, files and messages that may be construed as “official correspondence”. This specifically includes responsibility for appropriate records retention, confidentiality, disposal, duplication, distribution and security. Users are expected to manage their allocated server and e-mail space in an efficient and timely manner. The school district, and specifically the Information Services Department, is not responsible for maintaining archived email or electronic documents sent over email as part of the school’s network or over the Internet.

Web Content Filtering

The school district maintains a web-content filtering system that either permits or denies certain websites and protocols based on a category system, if a particular legitimate website is unduly blocked, a request can be made to unblock such site. This is done by requesting it via the district’s help request system.

There should be no expectancy of privacy by MCSD staff, all web access by staff and students is tracked, and is subject to the public records law.