



INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USAGE POLICY
(Instruction)

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USAGE

A. Purpose

Marlborough Public Schools recognizes that access to technology in school provides students greater opportunities to research, engage, collaborate and develop skills that will prepare them for work, life and citizenship. We are committed to helping students develop skills using technology in an appropriate, safe, legal and ethical manner.

The district's technology resources will be made available to all students. All users will be required to acknowledge receipt of this AUP annually. Violation of the terms of this Internet Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) may result in loss of access, or in the event of a violation of law, in possible prosecution.

B. Student Access

MPS provides technology (computer hardware, network, internet and peripheral devices such as printers) for students to promote learning, to enhance the educational experience, to collaborate, and to prepare students for higher education and workplaces that are technology rich.

The administration reserves the right to read and inspect the contents of storage media used by students in class when it is necessary to maintain the integrity of the school environment. Therefore, there is no expectation of privacy with respect to any actions performed or data stored on MPS technology.

All students are to adhere to the laws regarding piracy of computer software programs. Students will be held responsible for the replacement of any hardware which is damaged through misuse of equipment.

C. Content Filter

Under the Children's Internet Protection Act (2000) the district is required to filter internet content and makes an effort to do so. However, despite the district's efforts, students may encounter some inappropriate content. Inappropriate content or content that could be reasonably perceived as questionable should be immediately reported to a teacher or administrator and then to the IT department.

D. Devices Not Owned by MPS

Devices not owned by MPS may include laptops, tablets, cell phones, recording devices or any other devices that are Web enabled.

- With prior administrative approval, teachers may permit students to utilize their own mobile devices for educational purposes. Such use shall occur only under the direct supervision of the classroom teacher and shall end at the conclusion of the class period.

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- Student use of their own devices must support the instructional activities of the classroom and must be turned off and put away when requested by a teacher.
- The Marlborough Public Schools or faculty and staff of MPS are not responsible for privately owned devices brought in or used within the school. For example:
 - District technicians will not service, repair or maintain any devices not owned by MPS.
 - MPS will not be held liable for personal content housed on such a device.
 - MPS will not provide software or applications for technology that is not the property of MPS.
 - MPS is not responsible for any physical damage, loss or theft of the device.

The student and parent / guardian must sign and return the AUP prior to using the device and accessing the district network.

Mobile devices such as laptops, tablets and e-readers often are equipped with wireless accessibility on a phone network, which the district is unable to filter or monitor. Students who bring such devices must access the internet via the district's filtered WiFi connection. Personal wireless access modems or similar devices used to bypass the district's internet filter are prohibited. Violators may have their devices confiscated.

E. Respectful Practice (hardware and content)

Students will:

- use district technology to facilitate learning, district curriculum and instructional goals.
- maintain the privacy of passwords and the privacy of password-protected files.
- properly use and care for hardware (including keyboards, mice and other peripherals) and software.
- respect copyright laws regarding intellectual property.

Students will not:

- create or transmit messages or other electronic files that are threatening, rude, discriminatory, obscene or harassing.
- intentionally transmit viruses, macros or malicious code.
- use any device designed to covertly capture data.
- buy sell, advertise or conduct business, unless approved as a school project.
- access or display pornography, obscenities or other material deemed inappropriate including any site blocked by the district's content filter.
- attempt to bypass the district's content filter by means of proxies or any other method.
- reveal personal information or that of anyone else online.
- intentionally misrepresent their identity when communicating using technology.

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F. Cyber-Bullying

Cyber-bullying is defined as bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by such things as electronic mail, internet communications, instant message, text message or facsimile. Cyber-bullying includes (i) the creation of a Web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation is a violation under the law. Cyber-bullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting is a violation of the law.

Bullying through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by a school district (cyber-bullying) is prohibited by state law Chapter 71 Section 370.

Bullying through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by a school district or school, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the target, infringes on the rights of the target at school, or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school also is prohibited by MPS policy.

It is the responsibility of every student, parent and employee of the school district to recognize and report acts of bullying, cyber-bullying and retaliation. Any student who believes that he or she has been the victim of bullying, cyber-bullying or retaliation should report it immediately to his or her teacher or administrator.

G. Social Media

Social media is defined as any form of online publication or presence that allows interactive communication, including but not limited to, cell phones, social networks, blogs, internet Web sites, internet forums, and wikis. Specific networking sites include Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Flickr, Tumblr, and the like.

Students may engage in the use of social media during school hours at the direction of the classroom teacher for instructional purposes. Respectful practice must be observed at all times. See also Policy 7.981.

H. Change in Policy

MPS may alter or amend this policy at any time. If changes are made during a school year, all students will receive a copy of the amended policy and be required to sign it.



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MGL Part I, Title XII, Chapter 71, Section 93 and Section 370

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