

INTERNET/TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Policy Code:

3225

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in Montgomery County Schools. The goal of the school system in providing this service is to promote education excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication that is consistent with the educational objectives of the State of North Carolina and Montgomery County Schools. To gain access to the Internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission and must sign and return this form. Students 18 and over may sign their own forms.

Using the Internet, students and school staff have access to current information, news, and resources from businesses, libraries, educational institutions, government agencies, research institutions and associations, and a variety of other sources. However, some information and material on the Internet is not appropriate for students and may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive. Montgomery County Schools has taken precautions to restrict access to inappropriate materials. Additionally, school personnel will make every effort to monitor student use to insure that resources are appropriate. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials.

While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We (Montgomery County Schools) believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages; but ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Students will be given the privilege, along with responsibility, of using the Internet by returning the completed Internet Use Agreement, which has been read and signed, by the student and his/her parent/guardian.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies as well as regional and state networks. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of those who use it. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources as well as adherence to school and county codes of conduct. If a user violates any of these provisions, her/his privilege to use the Internet will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. In a case where laws or codes of conduct are broken, further consequences may follow. The signature(s) at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate that the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance. Guidelines for use are provided below.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- I. Acceptable Use:** Access to an account must be handled in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner and must be in support of the educational objectives and student behavior guidelines of the Montgomery County Schools. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state law or regulation is prohibited. Students must meet all standards of expected student behavior and comply with all board policies and school standards and rules.

Netiquette Rules – Users must abide by network etiquette rules. These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite – rudeness is never acceptable
- Do not provide any personal information (such as name, address/telephone number, social security number)
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be Montgomery County Schools' property.

II. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using threatening or obscene material
- Using obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, threatening, disrespectful or sexually explicit language
- Harassing others, including harassment based on race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability and religious or political beliefs.
- Posting web pages are considered school-sponsored and are subject to approval by the principal.
- Disclosing unauthorized personal information of individuals
- Using information or images in violation of copyright/trademark laws
- Distributing material protected by trade secret
- Forwarding personal communications without the author's prior consent
- Distributing political or commercial information
- Sending or soliciting sexually explicit messages or images
- Sending chain letters
- Soliciting money for any reason other than school fundraisers
- Sending SPAM

- Sending messages related to or in support of illegal activities
- Attempting to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment
- Utilizing the network for commercial purposes for gain and profit
- Distributing or copying software in such a way that the number of simultaneous users exceeds the number of licenses purchased
- Downloading copyrighted materials without written permission
- Loading of unlicensed software to school computers
- Using peer-to-peer file sharing software programs
- Disrupting the use of the network
- Accessing chat rooms, email and other forms of electronic communication except those set up and/or approved by the technology department
- Downloading or installing non-educational material such as music, pictures, etc...
- Changing settings on computers
- Accessing programs or computer equipment not designated for student use
- Accessing games and similar programs not approved for educational use by the school administration and/or technology personnel.

III. Disciplinary Action: The following measures can be taken as a result of unacceptable use:

- School disciplinary action according to Montgomery County School Code of Conduct
- Limitation or cancellation of user privileges
- Criminal prosecution for deliberate and malicious vandalism
- Other disciplinary action pursuant to school or classroom rules.

IV. Privileges: The use of the Internet and the use of Montgomery County Schools' network is a privilege, not a right.

- The Internet is provided for school-related purposes only.
- No right of privacy exists in any communication on the Internet.
- The school district may monitor all communication and intercept e-mail messages as a part of ensuring compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations.
- Inappropriate use may result in disciplinary action.

V. Security: Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Attempts to login to the system as any other user, to share a password, or allow a security breach may result in cancellation of user privileges. If a security problem is identified, personnel should notify the building administrator and not

demonstrate the problem to other users. Any user identified as a security risk shall be denied access.

A. Network Security – All network users will be assigned a username and password to access Montgomery County Schools’ network components. After signing the Acceptable Use Policy, network/Internet privileges will be assigned. Passwords should be kept private and should be changed regularly. Security software is installed on all client computers on the Montgomery County Schools network to prevent intentional or unintentional access to information on the Montgomery County Schools computer network. Internet security software is used to help filter out inappropriate websites. Violation of network security may result in loss of Internet access, loss of network computer usage or loss of local network privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with student disciplines policies or rules.

B. Safeguarding Information – All personnel and students are responsible for safeguarding information located on Montgomery County Schools’ computer systems. The responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Keeping usernames and passwords private
- Storing files in home directories, on electronic media, or in shared folders on the network serves
- Logging off when leaving the computer
- Compliance with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) guidelines limiting access to personal student information or board policy 4700, Student Records.

C. Software Security – Only members of the Technology Department (or persons designated by the Technology Coordinator) are permitted to install software in Montgomery County Schools. All software purchased for use within the Montgomery County Schools computer network will be reviewed by the Technology Department to ensure network security and compatibility. Each school should catalogue purchased and donated software. All software must have a license for each computer on which it is installed.

D. Vandalism – Vandalism will result in cancellation of user privileges and disciplinary/legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment, programs, and/or data of anyone connected to the network or standalone computers. This includes, but is not limited to uploading, creating or transmitting computer viruses, hacking, theft and unauthorized intrusion.

- VI. Privacy:** School authorities may monitor all student use of school district technology including, but not limited to, Internet and email. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Files stored on district servers and hard drives of individual computers are not private.
- VII. Disclaimer:** Montgomery County Schools will not be responsible for any damages suffered, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, service interruptions, inaccurate information, or hardware failure. Students and parents of Montgomery County Schools must understand that Montgomery County Schools cannot control the content of information available on the Internet. Some information may be controversial and/or offensive. The system does not condone the use of such materials and takes all reasonable precautions to limit access to these materials by using filtering and blocking technology. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. Students should be aware that access to the network and Internet will be withdrawn from users who do not follow the rules and regulations established by the Montgomery County School system and their school. The user accepts personal responsibility for any information obtained or sent via the network, including the sharing of personal information such as home address, checking account and credit card information. The Montgomery County School System disclaims responsibility for the loss of data or interference with files resulting from its efforts to maintain the privacy and security of the system's computer/technology facilities.

VIII. PUBLIC NOTICE

The superintendent will provide notice to the public of the board meeting(s) at which this policy will be revised to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Legal Reference: U.S. Const. amend. I; 17 U.S.C. 100 et seq.; Electronic Communications Privacy

Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2522; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; G.S. 115C-391, -325(e) CIPA 47 U.S.C. Sect 254 (H5)

Cross Reference: Internet/Technology Acceptable Use Policy for Staff (policy 7320), Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Copyright Complaint (policy 3230/7330), Integrity and Civility (policy 4310), Student Records (policy 4700), Public Records (policy 5070), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300)

Adopted: August 1, 2005

Updated:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS INTERNET/TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
FOR STUDENTS

After reading the attached rules with your child, please sign the form below and return it to school.

STUDENT AGREEMENT:

I understand and will abide by the Rules and Regulations for the Montgomery County Schools' *Internet/Technology Acceptable Use Policy for Students* (Policy 3225). I further understand that any violation will result in the loss of access privileges, school disciplinary action, and possible criminal prosecution.

Student Name: (please print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Expected Year of Graduation: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN AGREEMENT:

I hereby give permission to issue access for my child. As a parent or guardian, I have read, understood, and explained to my child, the Rules and Regulations for the Montgomery County Schools *Internet/Technology Acceptable Use Policy for Students* (Policy 3225). I understand that the school system has provided Internet access to meet its educational objectives and has taken precautions to eliminate student access to controversial material. However, I recognize it is impossible for Montgomery County Schools to totally prevent student access to such material and do not hold the school system responsible for any material my child accesses on the Internet. I accept full responsibility of the actions of my child while on the Internet and while using school resources.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: (please print) _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____