

Internet and Email Access for all Users of the School District

The Board of Education will set appropriate standards for users to access the Internet and email technology using school district facilities in order to perform work and studies. This use must not jeopardize operation of the School District Network or the reputation and/or integrity of the school district.

General Guidelines

Email Usage

- All email and associated system resources are the property of the school district. Email is subject to the same restrictions on its use, and the same review process, as is any other school district furnished resource provided for the use of employees and students. Its use and content may be monitored.
- Email usage must be able to withstand public scrutiny. Users must comply with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and standards. This includes complying with copyright and license provisions with respect to both programs and data.
- Email usage must not detrimentally affect employee or student productivity, disrupt the system and/or harm the district's reputation.
- Users may not:
 - Use email for commercial or political solicitation or for conducting or pursuing their own political or business interests or those of another individual or organization.
 - Use email to distribute hoaxes, chain letters, or advertisements and/or send rude, obscene or harassing messages.
 - Propagate viruses, knowingly or maliciously.
- Users must not send, forward and/or reply to large distribution lists concerning non-school district business. Users must consider the impact on the NETWORK when creating and using large, work related distribution lists.
- Alleged inappropriate use of the email technology will be reviewed by administrators on a case by case basis and may lead to disciplinary action.

Internet Usage

- Users must comply with all applicable laws and regulations and must respect the legal protection provided by copyright and licenses with respect to both programs and data.
- Internet usage must be able to withstand public scrutiny and/or disclosure. Sites should be accessed in accordance with the criteria established in the [Selection of Supplementary Learning Resource Materials Administrative Procedure #212](#).
- Sensitive information must not be transmitted via or exposed to Internet access.
- Internet usage must be consistent with professional conduct and not for personal financial gain.
- Internet Relay Chat channels or other internet forums such as newsgroups or netservers may be used only to conduct work related business or to exchange technical or analytical information. Users who wish to express personal opinions must use a private Internet provider and a personal ID.
- Users must not attempt to obscure the origin or any message or download material under an assumed Internet address.
- Administrators must ensure that all student users sign an [Elementary Student Internet Access Agreement](#) or a [Secondary Student Internet Access Agreement](#) before access is allowed. Secondary students must

also give their consent by signing the [Guest Internet Access Agreement](#). Parents/guardians will be advised by the school district that they can withdraw their consent at any time.

- The Systems Administrator monitors the use of the school district network and may monitor selected network traffic at the request of school district administration or the Ministry of Education.

Responsibilities

Users

- Users are responsible for ensuring that their use of email technology and the internet is appropriate and consistent with this policy.
- Users with an Access Agreement are personally responsible for the security of their email account, if one is granted, as follows:
 - Passwords must not be disclosed to any other individual.
 - Responsible for all activity that occurs within their account.
 - Notifying the immediate supervisor, teacher or systems administrator immediately if a security problem is suspected.
- Users are responsible for informing a teacher, an administrator or the system administrator if they mistakenly access inappropriate information or receive any message that they feel to be inappropriate.
- Users are responsible for following virus protection procedures to avoid the spread of computer viruses.
- Users are responsible for checking their email on a regular basis and for deleting unwanted messages.

Administrators

- Administrators are responsible for ensuring that all employees and students review this policy, the [Computer Network Administrative Procedure # 601](#) and [Internet Access for Students and Staff: Safe Practices Administrative Procedure #107](#). These policies are to be reviewed annually with users and parents of students to ensure they are aware of their obligations and responsibilities.
- Administrators and supervisors are responsible for taking appropriate action when this policy is contravened.

Systems Administrator

- The District Systems Administrator is responsible for monitoring network usage in term of traffic/load.
- On an annual basis, the systems administrator will delete all non-renewed network access agreements (i.e. graduated students, students who do not have parental and/or school permission, students who have withdrawn, transferred, etc.).

Student Access

- Students with an Access Agreement will have access to the Internet information resources through the MPSD.CA network only under the direction supervision and attendance of a teacher or an authorized school district employee.
- Students with an Access Agreement may create a personal Web Page on the MPSD.CA network in accordance with the following:
 - The school principal or designate has granted permission.
 - All material placed on the Web Page is pre-approved by the school principal or designate.

- All material placed on the Web Page is relevant to the student's school and career preparation activities.
- Students may identify themselves by first name and initial only. In the event that a student wishes to place a photograph, drawing or other facsimile of her/himself, that student must present the school principal with a signed parental consent form, and secure the permission of the school principal.
- Limited privacy is afforded to student personal files on the school district network through routine maintenance and monitoring of the system.
 - Pursuant to the School Act, parent(s)/guardian(s) have the right to view the contents of their student's email files.
 - A search will be conducted if there is a reasonable suspicion that a student has breached the rules and regulations governing use of the MPSD.CA network, the [District Code of Conduct Policy #19](#), or the law.
- The school district will cooperate fully with law enforcement officials conducting an investigation into illegal activities related to student use of the MPSD.CA network.

Safe Practices

- The MPSD.CA network must not be used for any of the following. Engaging in any of these activities may be considered an illegal act and subject to an investigation by school and/or law enforcement officials.
 - transmitting any materials in violation of Canadian laws;
 - violating, or attempting to violate, the security of the district's computers, data or network equipment or services;
 - offering, providing or purchasing products or services;
 - political lobbying;
 - posting or linking personal and/or private information about themselves or other people. (See the Information and Privacy Act for a definition of *personal information*);
 - knowingly or recklessly posting false or defamatory information about a person or organization;
 - engaging in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks;
 - using obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening or disrespectful language at any time;
 - harassing another person;
 - posting chain letters or sending unnecessary messages (spamming) to a large number of people;
 - posting information that could cause damage or danger;
 - plagiarizing works found on the Internet;
 - accessing material that is profane or obscene (pornography), that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination (hate literature);
 - pursuing unauthorized access or attempt to access another person's accounts, files or computer;
 - attempting to spread or create computer viruses, destroy data or disrupt the computer system in any way;
 - engaging in any act that contravenes the [District Code of Conduct Policy #19](#).

Date Adopted: October 2001

Date Amended: February 2003

Definition:

- *"User" means all persons authorized to access the internet via a school district service provider and electronic mail service, including employees and students.*

- *“Internet” means the global interconnection of data networks or bulletin board systems that commonly use (but are not limited to) the Internet Protocol.*
- *“Sensitive Information” means personal, confidential or protected information whose release is unauthorized – i.e. information which is reasonably likely to be accepted or excluded from access under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*
- *“Offensive material” includes, but is not limited to, pornography, hate literature or any material which contravenes the BC Human Rights Act.*

Cross Reference: [District Code of Conduct Policy #19](#)

[Internet Access for Students & Staff: Safe Practices Administrative Procedure #107](#)

[Selection of Supplementary Learning Resource Materials Administrative Procedure #212](#)