

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED: July 18, 1996

DATE REVISED: December 17, 1998

DATE REVISED: October 21, 1999

DATE REVISED: August 17, 2000

DATE REVISED: July 19, 2001

DATE REVISED: July 19, 2007

DATE REVISED: March 20, 2008

DATE REVISED: April 18, 2013

FILE SECTOR: INSTRUCTION

POLICY TITLE: INTERNET SAFETY /

TELECOMMUNICATIONS -
STUDENTS

The power of electronic networks and resources continues to transform the educational culture from one of isolation to one of connectivity. The Medford Area Public School District provides telecommunication access for its users. These resources will be integrated where appropriate in the PreK-12 curriculum. When possible, the district will be partners with the community in telecommunications effort. As student(s) of the Medford Area Public School District use telecommunications resources, it is essential that each student recognize his/her responsibility in having access to vast services, sites, and people. The student(s) is ultimately responsible for his/her actions in accessing telecommunication services, and for adhering to district use policies, procedures and guidelines.

In the environment of a global network, it is impossible to control all materials. The Medford Area Public School District believes that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweigh the possibility that student(s) may procure materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of the district. Our focus is in providing individual student(s) with the understanding and skills needed to use the Internet or other telecommunications in ways appropriate to their educational needs.

Through telecommunication access, student(s) may

- access global resources
- enter into partnerships to enhance their learning options
- broaden their problem-solving and decision-making abilities
- broaden their research capabilities by using primary materials
- develop their higher-level thinking skills
- gain an employability skill needed for the 21st century
- utilize a personalized, motivational learning opportunity
- differentiate and assess available resources

Policy Statements

1. Access to the electronic network and resources within the Medford Area Public School District is a privilege, not a right. This privilege will be revoked at any time for deliberate use not consistent with the "Telecommunication Code of Conduct" (IIGBA-R) of the district. Furthermore, unacceptable use may result in suspension or revocation of network privileges and possibly other disciplinary action up to and including possible suspension or expulsion from school.
2. Student(s) shall not access or use electronic mail or other computerized communication systems to relay threatening, intimidating, abusive or harassing messages. Such use may result in criminal sanctions consistent with Wisconsin Statutes §947.0125.

3. Student(s) shall not impose their choices on others, access private files, attempt to break the security systems, copy software illegally, or use computer supplies that are not for school-related activities.
4. Student(s) accessing district telecommunications systems may not corrupt network integrity by deliberately allowing inappropriate and/or dangerous files (i.e. viruses) to enter the system.
5. Any use of the network to facilitate illegal activity is prohibited and will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
6. Copyrighted material may not be placed on the network without the copyright owner's permission.
7. Student(s) are responsible for the ethical and educational use of their own accounts. These accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purposes. Student(s) shall not intentionally obtain copies of and/or modify the files or passwords belonging to other users.
8. The district is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its telecommunications services. The district is also not responsible for any damages the student(s) suffers, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, hardware system problems or service interruptions. Use of any information obtained via district technology is at the user's risk.
9. Cyberbullying is unacceptable and punishable. Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as: e-mail, text messages, instant messaging, or defamatory web sites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.
10. Principals may establish additional rules and procedures that they deem necessary to insure proper use of the telecommunications in their buildings.
11. The staff has the responsibility of making the educational goal clearly understood by the student. In addition, it is the responsibility of the staff to inform the student of his/her responsibilities when accessing the networks and the proper etiquette for their use.

Student and Parent Responsibility and Consent

Parents should be advised that even though the district does employ some types of filtering software it **DOES NOT** have complete control of information on the Internet or other telecommunication services. Therefore, the information which students have access to may include material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, visual depictions that are harmful to minors, or potentially objectionable to some people. While it is the intent of the Medford Area Public School District to make Internet access or other telecommunication services available to further its educational goals, students may have the ability to access other materials as well. Therefore, all students in grades 5 and 9 and new students in grades 5 - 12 who access the Internet independently via technology provided through the Medford Area Public School District are asked to sign the Telecommunications Code of Conduct Form at the time of initial use. The form will be renewed as students change buildings. The Code of Conduct, including the Rules for Telecommunications Use along with any additional building use regulations, will be discussed with the students. The building principal or his/her designee may require a written test, and/or a demonstration of personal competency before access is granted.

Since students may have access to material which is beyond the school district's control, a parent or guardian must sign the Student Registration Form requesting that his/her child have or not have individual access to the Internet. Parents or guardians have the right to modify permission at any time by contacting the school.

CROSS REFERENCE: IIBGA-R, IIBGB, IIBGC, JFC & KGA

LEGAL REFERENCE: §118.13, 120.13(1), 120.18, 121.02(1)(H), 943.70, 947.0125, 948.12 Wis. Stats., PI 8.01(2)(h), PI 9.03 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, COPPA 16 CFR §312.6, 312.7, ACT 7 (18 U.S.C. §2252), 17 U.S.C. §512, CIPPA (47 U.S.C. §254 (h), (l)).

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS CODE OF CONDUCT

The student is responsible for his/her actions using the Internet or other telecommunications. Unacceptable uses will result in the suspension or revocation of network privileges and possibly other disciplinary action in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct policy. Typical types of unacceptable use may be, but are not limited to, accessing for monetary personal gain, pornography, endangering the health/safety of others, gambling, and/or use in any manner so as to cause damage or disruption of the system. Medford Area Public School District administration will determine what is “unacceptable use” and such decisions are final.

RULES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS USE

All students are expected to use good judgment and communicate in a responsible and appropriate manner and to understand that telecommunications use is a privilege and not a right.

Acceptable Use (but not limited to) - Responsible users:

- will understand that all technology software, hardware, communication, electronic and wireless/wiring components that are property of the school district are governed by all applicable school policies.
- will understand that files are not private and may be monitored
- will follow proper forms of etiquette for network/technology use
- will respect and uphold copyright laws and all other applicable laws or regulations (e.g. not pirating software)
- will respect the rights and privacy of others by not accessing or modifying files created by others without permission
- will use discretion in revealing personal information online
- will follow the directions of the person(s) in charge and any posted regulations
- will have a Student Telecommunications Code of Conduct form on file in their current building.

Unacceptable Use (but not limited to) - Responsible users:

- shall NOT use the Internet for any illegal purpose. Violators will be reported to proper authorities
- shall NOT use impolite or abusive language
- shall NOT use the system for personal profit
- shall NOT use an account other than their own

- shall NOT create and/or distribute computer viruses
- shall NOT respond to electronic communication that is threatening or obscene
- shall NOT disrupt the use of the network by others
- shall NOT waste technology supplies (i.e. printer supplies, file space)
- shall NOT deliberately or willfully cause damage to hardware or assist others in doing the same
- shall NOT deliberately access materials that are inconsistent with the district's educational goals or show others how to do the same
- shall NOT use the network to violate behavior standards or school policies including but not limited to policies regarding sexual harassment or discrimination
- shall NOT assist others in violating the Code of Conduct
- shall NOT harass, intimidate, or bully as described as cyberbullying by usage or employment of network systems (data, video, or voice)