

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY



The McIntosh County School System recognizes that electronic media such as the Internet offer vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers that should promote educational excellence in our school by facilitating resource sharing and innovation. All users of Internet services must maintain strict compliance with all applicable ethical and legal rules and regulations. Failure to comply with these administration procedures shall be deemed grounds for revocation of privileges, potential disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action. Local schools may establish additional regulatory guidelines for use of electronic resources that include, but are not limited to, guidelines established by this system-wide procedure.

***Scope and Authority** – This includes all hardware, software, and network services used by the school system, including third party services that act as extensions of our internal network.*

Internet – Terms and Conditions

1. **Acceptable use** - The purpose of the internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U. S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. Internet use must be in support of educational endeavors and research consistent with the objectives of the McIntosh County School System. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene materials, inappropriate adult sites, or material protected by trade use. Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited. Attempts to obtain access to restricted sites, servers, files, and databases are prohibited. Unauthorized access to sites (e.g. “hacking”) is prohibited. Use of Internet games, MUDS (Multi User Dungeons), online gaming systems, gambling websites and IRCs (Internet Relay Chats) is not allowed.
2. **Privileges** - The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges. Students will have access privileges only at school under the supervision of a teacher. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. There is no appeal process. Also, the system administrators may deny access at any time, as required. An administrator, faculty member or staff member of the McIntosh County System may request denial, revocation, or suspension of a specific user.
3. **No Expectation of Privacy** - McIntosh County School System’s routinely monitors the usage of computers, network traffic and Internet activity. Users do not have a right to privacy in regards to computer usage, messages, stored email and Internet activity.
4. **Guidelines for Use** - The following guidelines shall be observed when using the Internet service through the school:
 - Users shall be polite, courteous and respectful during all sessions on the Internet, including use of e-mail. Users must use appropriate language.

- Profanity, obscenity or any vulgarity is prohibited.
 - Electronic mail (e-mail) and telecommunications are not to be utilized to share confidential information about students.
 - Electronic Mail and all computer usage is NOT private, and inappropriate or illegal messages will be reported to the authorities.
 - Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.
 - The disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information such as mailing address, phone number, or social security number, etc. is prohibited.
 - Do not use the network in a manner that disrupts the use of the network by other users.
 - All communications and information accessible via the Internet should be assumed to be subject to copyright law.
5. The McIntosh County School System makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the Internet service it provides. The school system is not responsible for any damages suffered by users.
 6. This includes the loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, miss-deliveries, or service interruptions caused for any reason. Use of information obtained is at the user's risk. The school system specifically denies responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its Internet service.
 7. Commercial services are available on the Internet. Though prohibited, if a user chooses to access these services, the individual is liable for any and all incurred cost.
 8. Security - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you suspect a security problem on the Internet, you are required to notify the principal or system administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Never use another individual's account. Attempts to log on to the Internet, as a network administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user(s) identified as a security risk or having a history or problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.
 9. VPN – Any attempt at bypassing the districts safeguards by connecting to a Virtual Private Network is not permitted. This includes using school owned technology and personal technology such as cell phone and tablets. Security is in place to monitor any VPN activity. If activity is discovered, the device using a VPN will have its network access blocked.
 10. Vandalism - Vandalism will result in immediate cancellation of privileges, disciplinary action, and may result in school suspension. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy computerized data of another user, on the Internet, or on other networks that are connected to any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, to uploading, using or creation of computer viruses, worms, Trojans, key loggers or other security risks.

11. Accountability - Since the Internet opens up the world to unrestricted access, teachers cannot assume the responsibility for monitoring every document to which a student may gain access. Therefore, teachers are not to be held accountable for what the student may access through the Internet beyond instructional directives. All users are fully responsible for their own actions, including legal, financial, or otherwise. All users are responsible for reporting inappropriate materials and location to the teacher in charge immediately.
12. Enforcement - Violating any of the guidelines can result in:
- Restricted access to computing.
 - Temporary or permanent loss of access to computing facilities and equipment.
 - Disciplinary action to include suspension and/or expulsion.
 - Disciplinary or legal action including, but not limited to, criminal prosecution under appropriate state and federal laws. Violations of state law will be reported to proper enforcement authorities.

McIntosh County School System's internal procedures for enforcement of its policies are independent of possible prosecution under the law.

Users who damage hardware or software shall be responsible for the replacement cost.

13. Procedure for Use - Faculty and staff will provide supervision of student access to the Internet. Users will be required to obtain permission from a teacher before using the Internet. Any computer that provides access to the Internet will have filtering software installed or be connected to a content filtering device to block or filter access to content that is obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors on internet-connected computers used by minors. All students must read and sign the Student Agreement form. Parents or guardians must sign the Parent Consent form and return it to the school.
14. Internet Safety - The Superintendent shall, with respect to any computers belonging to the McIntosh County School System and having access to the Internet:
- Ensure that a qualifying "technology protection measure," as that term is defined in section 1703 (b) (1) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000, is installed and in continuous operation; and
 - Institute, maintain and enforce procedures or guidelines which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to prevent access to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) "harmful to minors," as that term is defined in section 1721(c) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000.

The Superintendent shall, with respect to access to the Internet by or through computers, networks or other devices belonging to the McIntosh County School System, institute, maintain and enforce procedures or guidelines which:

- provide for monitoring the online activities of users to limit, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;

- are designed to promote the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- are designed to prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking”, and other unauthorized activities by minors online;
- are designed to prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
- are designed to restrict minors’ access to materials “harmful to minors,” as that term is defined in section 1721(c) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000.

Parents/guardians must be provided a copy of the Terms and Conditions for Computer/Internet use.

Internet access is designed for educational purposes and student access will be monitored. Any conduct by a student that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate, and such behavior may result in the termination of Internet access and possible disciplinary action. The Board makes no assurance of any kind, whether expressed or implied, regarding any Internet services provided. The school system or individual schools in the system will not be responsible for any damages the student/user suffers. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the student’s own risk. The school system specifically denies any responsibilities for the accuracy of quality of information or software obtained through its services. Further, parents/guardians must agree to compensate the school unit for any expenses or costs it incurs as a result of their child’s violation of the internet/computer usage agreement.

Student Acceptance of Terms and Conditions for Computer/Internet Usages

Students must abide by the Terms and Conditions for Internet/ Computer usage, which may include email accounts in some schools. Any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Violations may result in revocations of privileges, school disciplinary action and/or initiation of appropriate legal action.

Important Notice to Parents

The school system is using Internet filtering technology to block or filter access to content that is obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors on internet-connected computers used by minors. Parents are notified that filtering technology does not block access to all inappropriate sites one hundred percent of the time. Due to the nature of the Internet, it is neither practical nor possible for the Board of Education to enforce compliance with user rules at all times. Accordingly, parents and students must recognize that students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet. Therefore, parents must participate in the decision whether to allow their children access to the Internet and must communicate their own expectations to their children regarding its use.

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the student's own risk. The school system specifically denies any responsibilities for the accuracy of quality of information or software obtained through its services. Further, parents/guardians must agree to compensate the school unit for any expenses or costs it incurs as a result of their child's violation of the internet/computer usage agreement.

A parent or guardian must give permission for their child to access the Internet for educational purposes.

STUDENT INTERNET USAGE AGREEMENT

1. Introduction:

The McIntosh County School system is excited to be able to offer access to the Internet at school. The purpose of student Internet use is to enhance educational opportunities available to students. Student use of the Internet at school is a privilege, not a right. If a student abuses his/her privilege, he/she may lose his/her privilege to use the Internet at school. The purpose of this document is to inform students and parents that students must abide by the following Code of Ethics in using the Internet at school, and that student faces serious consequences for misuse of the Internet at school. This form is valid for the 2018-2019 school year only. A new document must be signed each year.

2. Code of Ethics:

- Student use of the Internet shall be for educational purposes only.
- Students shall not access the Internet unless such use is at the direction and under the supervision of a McIntosh County teacher and/or staff member.
- Students shall not use the Internet for commercial or for-profit purposes.
- Students shall not use the Internet to intentionally seek information, obtain copies, or modify files or other data, or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the system.
- Students understand that all communications and information accessible via the Internet is the private property of the author and shall respect it as such.
- Students shall not use the Internet in such a way as to disrupt use by others; students shall not destroy, modify or abuse hardware or software in any way; students shall not access, process, develop, download or distribute files dangerous to the integrity of the system.
- Students shall not install or download software, games, utilities, music, videos, etc.
- Students shall not use the Internet to access, process, develop, download or distribute pornographic materials, including but not limited to text, images, or sounds.
- Students must receive prior written approval to subscribe to Listservs via the Internet.
- Students shall not use the Internet to access, process, develop, download or distribute hate mail, harassment, or discriminatory remarks.
- Computers, Chromebooks, cell phones or other equipment shall not be used for Bullying/Cyberbullying

3. Consequences for Misuse of the Internet:

Students who misuse the Internet at school will be suspended from such use for a period not less than one (1) week. Serious or repeated misuse of the Internet could result in permanent loss of Internet privileges. If a student's misuse of the Internet is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the student shall be punished pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct. If a student's misuse of the Internet is in violation of the law, such misuse shall be reported to the appropriate authorities and could be punished as a criminal offense.

Conclusion

Students shall not be permitted to use the Internet at school unless this document is signed by both parent/guardian and student and returned to the student's school. By signing the Acceptable Use Policy document, both parent/guardian and student acknowledge that they have read and understand the terms of this document and agree to abide by it during the entire school year the student is enrolled in MCS. Also, by signing this document, both parent/guardian and student acknowledge and understand that: MCS is providing access to the Internet for educational purposes only; while McIntosh County Schools has taken reasonable precautions to eliminate students' access to inappropriate materials through the Internet, no system is foolproof, and inappropriate materials may still be accessible to students through no fault of McIntosh County Schools; and if at any time, either parent/guardian or student wishes to terminate their agreement with this document, the parent/guardian or student must inform McIntosh County Schools in writing.