

STUDENT ACCESS TO NETWORKED INFORMATION RESOURCES**Program Development**

To match electronic resources as closely as possible to the approved curriculum, County Office staff will review and evaluate resources in order to offer “home pages” and menus of materials that comply with Board and Superintendent policies and regulations governing the selection of instructional materials. In this manner, staff will provide developmentally appropriate guidance to students as they make use of telecommunications and electronic information resources to conduct research and other studies. All students will be informed by staff of their rights and responsibilities as users of the network prior to gaining access to the network, either as an individual user or as a member of a class or group. Responsible staff will supervise and monitor student Internet use at all times.

As much as possible, access to information resources will be designed in ways that point students to those that have been reviewed and evaluated prior to use. While students may be able to move beyond those resources to others that have not been evaluated by staff, they shall be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to the learning objectives. Pursuant to Public Law 106-554, the County Office uses a Technology Protection Measure to block “visual depictions” of material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. Students may pursue electronic research only if they have been granted parental permission (if a minor) and have submitted all required forms. Permission is not transferable and may not be shared.

Internet Safety Policy

Communications on the network are often public in nature. Therefore, students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner and comply with all applicable regulations. Parent permission is required for minors. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Individual users of the County Office computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is expected that users will comply with County Office standards and will honor the agreements they have signed.

Network storage areas are like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and to ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on County Office servers are private.

During school, teachers will guide students toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear responsibility for such guidance, as they do with other information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio, and other potentially offensive media.

Students must report to staff immediately:

- any person communicating via email, chat rooms, instant messaging, or by other means, any attempts to obtain personal information about the student, other students, or staff
- any communication or email received, or website accessed that is undesirable, inappropriate, or offensive
- any accidental access to inappropriate material

The following are not permitted:

- Accessing, posting, submitting publishing or displaying:
 - a. material that is obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors
 - b. harmful matter or material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs
 - c. material that encourage the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
 - d. material that encourages activities prohibited by law or MCOE policy
- Sharing confidential personal or identifying information about students or employees
- Sending or displaying offensive messages, pictures or jokes
- Assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting, attacking, or threatening others, even as a joke
- Behavior that might damage computers, computer systems, computer networks, or data (For example, loading files that might introduce a virus)
- Loading software downloaded from the Internet on MCOE computers without permission of the Technology Services Department
- Violating copyright laws
- Using and sharing others' passwords
- Trespassing in others' folders, work or files
- Wasting limited resources intentionally
- Attempting unauthorized access to computer systems, networks, or data
- Employing the network for commercial purposes
- Violating the rules and regulations prescribed by other organizations for the use of their network or resources

Sanctions

1. Violations will result in a loss of access.
2. Additional disciplinary action may be determined at the building level in accordance with existing practice regarding inappropriate language or behavior.
3. When applicable, law enforcement agencies will be involved.

Regulation approved: February 11, 2003

Revised: