

Midland ISD

Network Acceptable Use Policy

Midland ISD is providing students, staff, volunteers, and board members access to the district's electronic network. This network includes Internet access, computer services, videoconferencing, computer equipment and related equipment for educational purposes. E-mail service is currently provided only to MISD staff. This document contains the rules and procedures for acceptable use of the Midland ISD electronic network.

- The Midland ISD electronic network has been established for a limited educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" includes classroom activities, career development, and limited high-quality self-discovery activities.
- The Midland ISD electronic network has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. Midland ISD has the right to place reasonable restrictions on material that is accessed or posted throughout the network. Parent/guardian permission is required for all students under the age of 18.
- Access is a privilege — not a right. Students, parents, and teachers sign a form every school year (part of the registration packet) indicating familiarity with the acceptable use policy.
- It is presumed that students will honor this agreement they and their parent/guardian have signed. The district is not responsible for the actions of students who violate them beyond the clarification of standards outlined in this policy.
- The district reserves the right to monitor all activity on this electronic network. Students will indemnify the district for any damage that is caused by students' inappropriate use of the network.
- Students are expected to follow the same rules, good manners and common sense guidelines that are used with other daily school activities as well as the law in the use of the Midland ISD electronic network.

General Unacceptable Behavior

While utilizing any portion of the Midland ISD electronic network, unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

Network users will not post information that could cause damage or danger of disruption.

- Engaging in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
- Harassing another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If a student is told by a person to stop sending messages, they must stop.
- Knowingly or recklessly posting false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
- Using criminal speech or speech in the course of committing a crime such as threats to the president, instructions on breaking into computer networks, child pornography, drug dealing, purchase of alcohol, gang activities, threats to an individual, etc.
- Using speech that is inappropriate in an educational setting or violates district rules.
- Abusing network resources such as sending chain letters or "spamming."
- Displaying, accessing or sending offensive messages or pictures.
- Using the Midland ISD electronic network for commercial purposes, or offering, providing, or purchasing products or services through this network.
- The Midland ISD electronic network will not be used for political lobbying.
- Network Users will not attempt to access non-instructional district systems, such as student information systems or business systems, without authorization.

- Students and staff will not connect any networkable device (either wired or wireless) to the MISD network without authorization. Example: The use of a computer brought from home on the network or accessing the internet from any device not owned by the district.
- Students and staff will not attempt to circumvent web filtering through proxies or other means
- Students and staff will not use district equipment, network, or credentials to threaten employees, or cause a disruption to the educational program.
- Students and staff will not use the district equipment, network, or credentials to send or post electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal.

E-Mail and Electronic Posting

- E-mail is not currently being provided for students. However, there are internal messaging options (blogs, etc.) on the classroom website which allow students to communicate. Students may not utilize any E-mail system or Chat Room from a district computer without approval or monitoring by school personnel.
- Web-based e-mail accounts may be restricted or blocked at the discretion of the network administrator, to protect the network from viruses, spam, or bandwidth abuse.
- Students will not establish or access Web-based e-mail accounts on commercial services through the district network unless such accounts have been approved for use by the district.
- Students will not repost a message that was sent to them privately without the permission of the person who sent them the message.
- Students will not post private information about another person.

Midland ISD Website

- Classroom websites and opportunities to share information and comments by students are now available. These websites are managed by the teachers.
- Content, access and available features of the website will differ for members of the public, compared to students and staff.
- Classroom teachers are responsible for the content on their classroom web pages.
- Principals and departmental supervisors are responsible for the content on their sections of the Midland ISD web site and taking any corrective action.
- Students' responsibilities when posting on the classroom web pages are to be explained by the teacher.

World Wide Web

- All internet content available to Midland ISD users is filtered through a category-based appliance to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2001 (C.I.P.A.) The list of inappropriate web sites is constantly updated through a subscription. However, no guarantee can be made that the system will be 100% accurate. It is ultimately the responsibility of the instructor in the classroom to monitor appropriateness of the web sites viewed.

Personal Safety

- Students will not share personal contact information about themselves or other people. Personal contact information includes address, telephone, school address, or work address.

- Elementary and middle school students will not disclose their full name or any other personal contact information for any purpose.
- High school students will not disclose personal contact information, except to education institutes for educational purposes, companies or other entities for career development purposes, or without specific building administrative approval.
- Students will not agree to meet with someone they have met online.
- Students will promptly disclose to a teacher or other school employee any message received that is inappropriate or makes the student feel uncomfortable
- Students will be provided access to information, through their instructors, regarding appropriate safety guidelines for online behavior, pertaining to social networking sites, chat rooms, and “cyber bullying”.

System Security

- Computer users are responsible for their individual accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use them. Computer users should not provide their password to another person.
- Students and staff must immediately notify a teacher or the system administrator if they have identified a possible security problem. Computer users should not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
- Students and staff will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to any portion of the Midland ISD electronic network. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's folders, work, or files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing".
- Students and staff will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
- Computer users will not attempt to access Web sites blocked by district policy, including the use of proxy services, software, or Web sites.
- Computer users will not use sniffing or remote access technology to monitor the network or other user's activity.

Software and Files

- Software is available to students to be used as an educational resource. No student may install, upload or download software without permission from the district technology department.
- A student's account may be limited or terminated if a student intentionally misuses software on any district-owned equipment.
- Files stored on the network are treated in the same manner as other school storage areas, such as lockers. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the Midland ISD electronic network may lead to discovery that a student has violated this policy or the law. Students should not expect that files stored on district servers are private.

Technology Hardware

- Hardware and peripherals are provided as tools for student use for educational purposes. Students are not permitted to relocate hardware (except for portable devices), install peripherals or modify settings to equipment without the consent of the district technology department.

Vandalism

- Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data, the network, other network components connected to the network backbone, hardware or software will result in cancellation of network privileges. Disciplinary measures in compliance with the district's discipline code and policies will be enforced.

Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

- Students and staff will not plagiarize works found on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they are one's own.
- District policies on copyright will govern the use of material accessed and used through the district system.
- Copyrighted material will not be placed on any system without the author's permission. Permission may be specified in the document, on the system or must be obtained directly from the author.

Student Rights

- Students' right to free speech applies to communication on the Internet. The Midland ISD electronic network is considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper, and therefore the district may restrict a student's speech for valid educational reasons. The district will not restrict a student's speech on the basis of a disagreement with the opinions that are being expressed.
- An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated this policy or the law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.

Due Process

- The district will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through the district network.
- In the event there is an allegation that a student has violated the district acceptable use regulation and policy, the student will be provided with a written notice of the alleged violation. An opportunity will be provided to present an explanation before a neutral administrator (or student will be provided with notice and an opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the disciplinary code).
- Disciplinary actions will be tailored to meet specific concerns related to the violation and to assist the student in gaining the self-discipline necessary to behave appropriately on an electronic network. Violations of the acceptable use regulation and policy may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.
- If the violation also involves a violation of other provisions of other school rules, it will be handled in a manner described in the school rules. Additional restrictions may be placed on a student's use of his/her network account.

Limitation of Liability

- The district makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the district network will be error-free or without defect. The district will not be responsible for any damage suffered, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service.
- The district is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the network. The district will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the network.

Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy

Violations of this policy may result in loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Students' violation of this policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated within this policy as well as other appropriate discipline, which includes but is not limited to:

- Use of district network only under direct supervision
- Suspension of network privileges
- Revocation of network privileges
- Suspension of computer privileges
- Suspension from school
- Expulsion from school and/or
- Legal action and prosecution by the authorities

The particular consequences for violations of this policy shall be determined by the school administrators. The superintendent or designee and the board shall determine when school expulsion and/or legal action or actions by the authorities are the appropriate course of action.