

COMPUTER/ON-LINE SERVICES Acceptable Use Policy

The Board of Education recognizes that technology can greatly enhance the instructional program, as well as the efficiency of the District and school site administration. The Board also realizes that careful planning is essential to ensure the successful, equitable and cost-effective implementation of technology-based materials, equipment, systems and networks. Computers and use of the District's network or on-line services network are to support learning and to enhance instruction, as well as assist in the administration of the District. Computer networks allow people to interact with many computers; the Internet allows people to interact with hundreds of thousands of networks. All computers are to be used in a responsible, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this policy and the guidelines below may result in disciplinary actions governed by law, Board of Education Policy, and all policy regulations. Unacceptable uses of the computer/network include but are not limited to:

1. violating the conditions of the Ohio Revised Code dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy;
2. using profanity, obscenity or other language which may be offensive to another user;
3. copying commercial software in violation of copyright laws;
4. using privately-owned software without the expressed permission of the staff member in charge of the computer and/or without meeting the tests of legality, appropriateness and relationship to curriculum;
5. using the network for unauthorized financial gain, for unauthorized commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
6. accessing inappropriate material, and
7. downloading and/or uploading programs, applications, files, updates or plug-ins without the permission and supervision of the staff member in charge of the computer and which are not used for school-related purposes.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to address the short and long-term technology needs of the district and provide for compatibility of resources among school sites, district offices and other district operations. As a basis for this plan, he/she shall examine and compare the costs and benefits of various resources and shall identify the blend of technologies and level of service necessary to support the instructional program.

Because access to on-line services provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world, users (and parents of users, if the user is under 18 years old) must understand that neither the school nor the District can control the content of the information available on these systems. Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes offensive. The District does not condone the use of such materials; neither does the District warrant that the network will be error-free or uninterrupted.

School employees, students and parents of students must be aware that the privilege of accessing on-line services may be withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or who do not follow the rules and regulations established by the school and the District. This policy is part of the Middletown City School District's Student Code of Conduct, the MCSD Teachers' Handbook and MCSD Classified Employees' Handbook.

Regulations for this policy will be Board approved.

[Adoption date: March, 1997]
[Re-adoption date: July 13, 1998]
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LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Art. I, § 8
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC 1232g et seq.
ORC 1329.54-1329.67
3313.20
3319.321
20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR, § 99.1 et seq.

CROSS REFS.: IB, Academic Freedom
JFC, Student Conduct
MTA Teachers' negotiated agreement
MCEA negotiated agreement
MCSD Teachers' Handbook
MCSD Classified Employees' Handbook