

MARK WEST UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS' TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

The Mark West Union School District (District) is pleased to offer students access to district computers, communications systems, the Internet and an array of technology resources to promote educational excellence and innovation. While using District and personal technology resources on or near school property, at school-sponsored activities, as well as using district technology resources via off-campus remote access, each student must act in an appropriate manner consistent with school, district and legal guidelines. It is the joint responsibility of school personnel and the parent or guardian of each student to educate the student about his/her responsibilities and to establish expectations when using technology.

Access to the District technology resources is provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Prior to being allowed access to the Internet at school or through technology resources provided through the District, students and their parents must sign the Mark West Union School District Acceptable Use Consent Form acknowledging their responsibilities. Students must comply with the District's standards and honor this agreement to be permitted the use of District technology.

District technology resources are provided to students to conduct research, access curriculum, resources, enhance parent involvement, complete assignments, and communicate with others in furtherance of their education. Access is a privilege, not a right,; such, general rules of school behavior apply. Just as students are responsible for good behavior in a classroom or on school grounds, they must also be responsible when using school computer networks or personal technologies.

If a student violates any of these rules, his/her use shall be terminated and future access may be denied. Disciplinary action may also result. If possible criminal activity is discovered, the proper law enforcement authorities will be notified. Disciplinary action for students shall be in accordance with existing discipline policies and may include suspension or expulsion in accordance with the laws of the State of California and the District policy.

1. District technology resources shall only be used to access educational information and to promote learning activities both at school and home, including the facilitation of communication between home and school.
2. Students shall not load personal software or programs on District computers, nor shall they download programs from the Internet without the approval of their instructor.
3. Virtual and physical vandalism shall not be tolerated. Any intentional act by a student that damages or interferes with performance of District technology hardware, software, operating systems, communication systems will be considered vandalism and will be subject to school discipline and/or appropriate criminal or civil action.
4. Not all access to the Internet can be supervised. Students agree not to send, access, submit, publish, display or print over the Internet or District network, or using District technology resources, any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, offensive or illegal material. Cyber bullying is specifically prohibited. It shall be the student's responsibility to report the inappropriate use, web site, or communication to the student's teacher or other staff member.
5. Although the District used a software filter to block known inappropriate web sites and prohibit access to harmful materials accessed from a District network, the district does

not filter or block access to harmful materials accessed from a District-provided resource that is being used outside of the District network. Under any circumstances, filtering technology is not perfect and therefore, may in effect both interfere with legitimate educational purposes and allow some objectionable material to be viewed.

6. The use of District technology resources is not private; students should not expect that files stored on or transmitted via the district's resources will be confidential. All digital transmissions are subject to inspection and/or monitoring by district employees and other officials. Digital storage is District property, and as such, network administrators will review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that students are using technology responsibly.
7. District denies any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained from the Internet or provides to students.
8. District makes no warranties of any kind, expressed implied, for the technology it provides to students.
9. Copyright, Trademark and or Registered laws must be adhered to at all times. All materials from the Internet and other digital resources, including graphics, which are used in student projects or reports, must be properly cited. Copyrighted, Trademarked or registered materials may not be placed on the Internet without the permission of the author.
10. Students shall not post or transmit their own or other's personal information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, last names, photos or other personal identifying information.
11. The use of District technology resources may involve the use of a password, network access code or other identifying or validating code. Such passwords and codes are to be protected as private information provided to the individual user for their sole purpose. Such passwords and codes shall not be disclosed by the student to others.
12. Students shall not use District technology resources to conduct for-profit business activities or to engage in religious activities. Students shall not use District technology resources for advertising, promotion commercial purposes or similar objective, including the purchase of any items or services.
13. Students may bring personal technology, including computers, smart phones, network access devices, or other electronic signaling devices to school **provided that such technology is used for instructional purposes**. Students shall abide by the instructions provided by teachers and other school staff in the use of such personal technologies. Access to the Internet or other District communication systems from personal technology is limited to wireless access points on the school campuses or other access devices away from school. Access to the Internet or other District communication systems from personal technology is not available via hardwire connections.

Consequences of Misuse and/or Violation of the Provisions of this Agreement

Misuse of personal or District and personal technology resources on or near school property, in school vehicles and buses, at school-sponsored activities, as well as using district technology resources via off-campus remote access, may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the schools of the District. This Agreement shall be used in conjunction with Mark West Union School District Board of Education policies, California Education Code, and other local, state and federal laws and regulations governing the applicable matter.

Students, parents and guardians should recognize that the nature of the use of District technology resources extends outside of the school itself and into off-campus remote locations such as homes. The District's jurisdiction to enforce student behavior and discipline policies and rules shall apply whether the misuse or violation is at school or away from school as long as the District's technology resources are being used in the inappropriate behavior.

Limitation of Liability

Mark West Union School District shall not be responsible for any damages suffered by the student, including those arising from non-deliveries, misdeliveries, service interruptions, unauthorized use, loss of data, and exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material or people. Use of any information obtained via the Internet or communications technologies is at the student's own risk. Mark West Union School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet. The District assumes no liability for personal technology, including computers, smart phones, network access devices, or other electronic signaling devices, if such devices are damaged, lost or stolen. The student and his/her parent/guardian shall indemnify and hold Mark West School District harmless from any losses sustained as the result of use or misuse of the district's technology resources by the student, and/or the loss or damage of personal technology.

Agreement

I/We hereby agree to comply with the Mark West Union School District Acceptable Use Policy, as described above. As a parent or guardian, I hereby consent to my child's or ward's use of Mark West Union School District technology resources. I/we also agree to hold Mark West Union School District harmless for any damages suffered by my child/ward, including those arising from non-deliveries, misdeliveries, service interruptions, unauthorized use, loss of data, and exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material or people arising from or connected to the use of Mark West Union School District technology resources.

Mark West Union School District Board Policy 6163.4

Instruction Student Use of Technology

The Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the district be used in a safe, responsible and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of district computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities in accordance with district regulations and the district's Acceptable Use Agreement.

Before using the district's on-line resources, each student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return an Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree to not hold the district responsible and shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the district and all district personnel for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, users' mistakes or negligence, or any costs incurred by users' mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the district and personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

In order to help ensure that the district adapts to changing technologies and circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall regularly review this policy, the accompanying administrative regulation, and other relevant procedures. He/she shall also monitor the district's filtering software to help ensure its effectiveness.

The Board desires to protect students from access to harmful matter on the Internet or other on-line services. The Superintendent or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet. He/she also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communication.

Staff shall supervise students while they are using on-line services and may ask teacher aides and student aides to assist in this supervision.

On-Line Services/Internet Access

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, and that the operation of such measures is enforced. (20 USC 7001, 47 USC 254)

To reinforce these measures, the Superintendent or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities.

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The Superintendent or designee also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students and student information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide age appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying.

Student use of district computers to access social networking sites is prohibited. To the extent possible, the Superintendent or designee shall block access to such sites on district computers with Internet access.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[51006](#) Computer education and resources
[51007](#) Programs to strengthen technological skills
[60044](#) Prohibited instructional materials

PENAL CODE

[313](#) Harmful matter
[502](#) Computer crimes, remedies
[632](#) Eavesdropping on or recording confidential communications
[653.2](#) Electronic communication devices, threats to safety

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 15

[6501-6506](#) Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

[6751-6777](#) Enhancing Education Through Technology Act, Title II, Part D, especially

[6777](#) Internet Safety

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47

254 Universal service discounts (E-rate)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 16

312.1-312.12 Children's online privacy protection

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 47

54.520 Internet safety policy and technology protection measures, E-rate discounts

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES;

CSBA Publications

Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

How to Protect Kids' Privacy Online: a Guide for Teachers, December 2000

MY [SPACE.COM](#) PUBLICATIONS

The Official School Administrator's Guide to Understanding MySpace and Resolving Social Networking Issues

WEB SITES:

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org>

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California Coalition for Children's Internet Safety: <http://www.cybersafety.ca.gov>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use: <http://csriu.org>

Federal Communications Commission: <http://www.fcc.gov>

Federal Trade Commission, Children's Online Privacy Protection:

<http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/privacyinitiatives/childrens.html>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

Web Wise Kids: <http://www.webwisekids.org>

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