

The Board of Education recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies change the ways that people access, communicate, and transfer information, those changes will alter instruction and the ways that students learn. The School District of Mauston is committed to providing students with access to information available on electronic networks, including the Internet. It also acknowledges its educational obligation to help students develop the skills necessary to analyze and evaluate that information. In a free society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship. In an educated society, wise use of information must be the norm.

Telecommunications, electronic information sources, networked services, and the Internet exponentially increase the amount of information available to schools, students, and citizens. It is literally true that, via the Internet, students can access libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and any publicly available computer file servers in the world from their classrooms. It is also true that they may exchange messages with and converse in real time with thousands of people all over the world. The vastness of these information resources renders it impossible for anyone to screen their content prior to use by students. In the past, schools could screen instructional materials prior to their use. This is not possible with electronic networked information resources.

Future citizens, as they participate in work and civic affairs, will need to demonstrate the ability to use electronic resources to find and evaluate information to solve problems. As part of our educational responsibility, the School District of Mauston will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response. Annual instruction will take place at least once at each of our elementary, middle and high school levels within our curriculum.

The School District of Mauston believes that the educational advantages of providing students with access to electronic networked information resources so they can master these skills exceed the disadvantages. Nevertheless, some of the content found on electronic information resources contains information that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, and/or offensive. While the district's intent is to make access available to further legitimate educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access inappropriate information as well. Moreover, it is possible for those who use electronic on-line communications to violate federal or state law by the ways in which they communicate with others. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children will follow when using these resources, just as they are in other cases involving student access to information resources such as books, magazines, television, films, or music. To that end, the School District of Mauston supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for a student's access to the district's electronic information systems.

### **ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS**

Using the electronic networked information resources available under the auspices of the School District of Mauston is a privilege, not a right. The Board of Education has the authority to revoke this privilege if it determines that an individual is not using the system consistent with its policies.

The School District of Mauston provides access to electronic networked information resources to its students to advance education, consistent with the district's goals, objectives, and educational plan. Users of the system understand that:

1. Use which is consistent with the School District of Mauston policies and purposes is acceptable.
2. Use which violates Wisconsin, federal, or international laws is unacceptable.
3. Activities that interfere with the ability of other users to make effective use of the system are unacceptable.
4. Using the system in a manner harmful or harassing to others is unacceptable.
5. All users are cautioned not to use the system to transmit information of a sensitive or confidential nature, following the same guidelines that prohibit the transmission of sensitive or confidential information using other methods of communication.

The following activities are prohibited:

- a. Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures.
- b. Using obscene language, swearing, vulgarities or any other abusive language.
- c. Giving personal information when using the system, such as complete name, address, phone number and identifiable photo without permission from teacher and parent or guardian.
- d. Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks.
- e. Violating copyright laws.
- f. Using others' passwords.
- g. Trespassing in others' folders, work or files.
- h. Employing the network for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud.
- i. Downloading or installing games or any other unauthorized program.
- j. *Unauthorized use of* chat programs e.g., MSN Messenger, Yahoo, etc. on any school computer.
- k. *Unauthorized use of* web-based email programs e.g., Hotmail, Yahoo mail, or social network sites, e.g., Facebook, MySpace etc. on school computers.
- l. Use of proxy sites or other sites used to bypass school filtering devices.

6. All users are advised that under Wisconsin Acts 943.70 and 947.0125, a person may be subject to criminal penalties if she/he uses an electronic mail system to:
  - a. send a message to another person and in that message, threaten to inflict injury or physical harm to the person or property of the person.
  - b. send a message to a person while intentionally preventing to disclose his or her identity with the intent of frightening, intimidating, or harassing the person.
  - c. send a message to another person and use obscene, lewd, or profane language or suggest a lewd or lascivious act.
7. All users are advised that communications over electronic networks should not be considered private. Network supervision and maintenance may require a review or inspection of messages. Messages may accidentally be diverted to a destination other than the one intended. Privacy in these communications is not guaranteed. The district reserves the right to access stored records in cases where there is reasonable cause to suspect wrongdoing or misuse of the system. Students should have no expectation of privacy in any such communications.
8. Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Students should not expect that files stored on district servers will always be private. In addition, students are to store only school related material on school servers.
9. All users are advised that computer equipment, software, telephone systems, and other electronic communications systems belong to the School District of Mauston, and are provided to students for their use in conducting school district business. Except for limited and occasional personal use, electronic communications systems are to be used for school district purposes only.
10. Students are prohibited from using the Mauston School District's electronic communications system for solicitations of any kind not related to school district business. These include, but are not related to, solicitations regarding an student's outside business interests, membership or fund raising for political organizations, religious groups, or any other outside entity.
11. Students under 18 years of age must have the permission of their parent or guardian on file with the school they attend in order to have access to electronic networked information resources. Such permission remains in force unless or until it is specifically revoked by the parent or guardian of a minor student.
12. Students are responsible for good behavior on computer networks just as they are in a classroom, in school, or at a school-sponsored activity. General school rules for conduct and communications apply to communication on computer networks.

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**MAUSTON  
SCHOOL  
BOARD  
POLICY**

Section: 300--Instruction  
**STUDENT ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC  
NETWORKED INFORMATION  
RESOURCES**

**Policy Code: 363.2**

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I understand and will abide by the above. I further understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked, school disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent or legal guardian of this student, I have read the above. I understand that this access is intended and designed for educational purposes. I recognize that it is impossible for the School District of Mauston to restrict all controversial materials and I will not hold it responsible for materials acquired by use of the network. Further, I fully accept responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

My above named son/daughter, who is under 18 years of age, has my permission to use the networked electronic information resources available in the School District of Mauston.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statutes 943.70, 947.0125, Federal Law: Children's  
Internet Protection Act  
Cross Reference: 363.3-Children's Network Protection Act Internet Safety Policy,  
522.8 -Computer Network Use Agreement (Staff)  
Approved: 3/16/09  
Reviewed: 11/08  
Modified:

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