

Metcalfe County School District Internet Safety Policy

The purpose of this Internet Safety Policy is to ensure that all students in the Metcalfe County School District are protected while using digital technologies. In accordance with CIPA and Board Policy 08.2323 – Access to Electronic Media, the Metcalfe County School District is committed to implementing comprehensive safeguards that promote safe, secure and responsible use of the internet and electronic communications.

This policy outlines the Metcalfe County School District's technology protection measures, monitoring practices, and educational initiatives. These protections apply to all district owned devices, district managed accounts and any personal devices accessing the district network.

- Controlling access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web
- Safety and security of minors when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications
- Preventing unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online
- Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
- Restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.
- Education of Students About Appropriate Online Behavior

As required by CIPA, this policy was presented in a public forum to ensure transparency and community engagement prior to adoption. It reflects the Metcalfe County School District's ongoing commitment to adapting its practices in response to evolving technologies and emerging online risks.

Controlling Access by Minors to Inappropriate Content

To protect students from exposure to harmful material:

The Metcalfe County School District implemented the GoGuardian internet content filter in April of 2025.

GoGuardian will continue to be used to block categories of harmful and inappropriate content including:

- Pornography
- Sexual Content
- Social Media
- Controlled Substances
- Aggressive Behavior
- Malicious Sites

- Gambling
- Dating
- Online Gaming
- Academic Dishonesty
- Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)

Flagged activity detection is enabled for all students. Alerts based on keywords or URLs are sent to district and school administrators for review.

GoGuardian Teacher will be used to give classroom teachers the ability to further restrict student access to specific websites and to monitor student online activity during class time

Safety and Security of Minors When Using Electronic Communication

To safeguard students using electronic communication:

The Metcalfe County School District will continue to use Bark, an email monitoring service that detects:

- Bullying
- Hate speech
- Inappropriate behavior
- Self-harm
- Sexual Content
- Violence

Alerts are sent to district and school administrators when flagged content is detected

Students will be restricted from using third-party email services such as Yahoo and Gmail

In accordance with Kentucky Senate Bill 181, the Metcalfe County School District has adopted Finals Chat as its designated traceable communications platform for electronic interactions between staff and students.

Protection of Personal Information

To maintain privacy and security of student data:

The Metcalfe County School District will continue to educate its staff on how to handle Personally Identifiable Information (PII) securely

COPPA and FERPA compliant platforms such as:

- Clever

- OneRoster
- RapidIdentity

will be used to securely share student login and rostering data with educational applications and services

Virtru email encryption will continue to be used by counselors and secretaries to securely transmit student records to other educational institutions

The Metcalfe County School District adheres to the Kentucky Department of Education's Data Security and Breach Notification Best Practice Guide

Education on Appropriate Online Behavior

To educate our students about proper online behavior:

The Metcalfe County School District will provide age-appropriate instruction to students on safe and responsible internet use. This includes guidance on interacting with others online as well as education on recognizing, preventing and responding to cyberbullying.

Specific guidelines for responsible internet usage will be outlined in the Acceptable Use Policy, which students and their guardians are to review and sign annually.