INTERNET SAFETY AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE PRACTICES (AUP) FOR THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been adopted in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, as codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h) and (l).

It is the policy of the Marengo County School Board (Board) to provide technology resources, including Internet access, to its students and employees in order to more fully support the system's mission statement and to meet educational and instructional goals set by the system and the state. It is the intention of the Board that all technology resources will be used in accordance with any and all school / system policies and procedures as well as local, state, and federal laws and / or guidelines governing the usage of technology and its component parts. This policy applies to all technology resources, regardless of purchase date, location, or funding source.

All users, in the process of logging onto the system's network, will agree to abide by all school and system policies. Students and staff must have the appropriate Acceptable Use Policy on file with the system prior to use. Visitors to the system must have the permission of school staff in order to access the Internet. Such permission may not be shared or transferred.

This Internet Safety Policy will be displayed in each school's media center and computer lab. A copy of the policy will also be available in each school's office. Any questions about this policy, its interpretation, or specific circumstances shall be directed to the System Technology Coordinator before proceeding. Violators of this policy will be handled in a manner consistent with comparable situations requiring disciplinary and/ or legal action. The administrators of each school will be responsible for establishing specific practices to enforce this policy at individual schools.

TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURES

Filtering and Blocking

The Board will make every reasonable effort to filter and block access to "visual depictions" that are obscene, contain child pornography, are harmful to minors, or that the Board determines is "inappropriate for minors." The software will filter all incoming Internet sites based on both URL (website name) and IP address. URLs and IP addresses may be added to the filtered list in cases where the filtering system may not have accurately identified inappropriate sites as defined above.

All users are required to report any sites that contain inappropriate materials or materials harmful to minors. Students must report this information to their teacher. Teachers or staff members must report this information to the System Technology Coordinator. This includes any text, audio segment, picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole, appears to be a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion.
2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals.
3. Taken as a whole lacks serious literacy, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

Adult staff members may request a review of filtered sites. Adults who are engaged in bona fide research or need access to blocked sites for other lawful purposes, may request a temporary release of the specific sites at specific workstations to complete their work. Such requests should be directed to the System Technology Coordinator.

Monitoring

It is the responsibility of all teachers and employees to properly inform students / staff under their charge of this policy and to see that the policy is strictly enforced. Students using the Internet and World Wide Web will be under the direct supervision of the instructor. In addition, the system may use software to monitor Internet activity, as needed.

Teachers who will be presenting Internet sites to students as part of the instructional process, should preview the sites they plan to incorporate to ensure their safety and suitability. If students are to independently access the Internet on a computer, the teacher must ensure that they have a signed Acceptable Use Policy on file. In addition, any student under the age of 17 must also have a

signed Parent Permission Form on file. Finally, teachers must give students specific permission to independently access the Internet and monitor their activity while they are online.

Communicating Electronically

The Board permits students to engage in electronic communications on a limited basis for educational purposes under the direct supervision of their teacher. All such communications are subject to school rules, the Student Acceptable Use Policy, any applicable laws, and the following safety and security measures.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, electronic communications (including, but not limited to email, chat, and instant messaging) may not be used for:

1. Unsafe practices such as:
   Contacting strangers or communicating with unknown individuals or organizations.
   Posting or forwarding other user's personal communication without the author's consent.
   Sending mass emails without the consent of the Principal or System Technology Coordinator.
   Disclosing, using, or disseminating unauthorized personal information regarding minors including, but not limited to the following: home and / or school address; work, home, school, or cellular phone numbers; full name, social security number, etc. without authorization.
2. Harmful, malicious, or unlawful practices such as: spreading viruses, spamming, hacking of any type, copyright infringement; or engaging in any other unlawful activities.
3. Commercial practices such as selling or advertising products or services or purchasing products or services.

Posting on the Internet (District Website, Social Media, etc.)

1. All users wishing to post pages or information on the System's website must obtain prior permission.
2. Students may not use technology resources operated by the school system to post information or graphics to personal web pages on the Internet.
3. Permission for publishing employee photographs on the Marengo County School System website or social media accounts is assumed unless the employee specifies otherwise in writing to the Marengo County School System Technology Coordinator.
4. No written permission is required to post faculty and staff listings with their school contact information.
5 Student pictures or other personally identifiable information can be used unless it is otherwise in writing from the parent/guardian of the student involved. These requests should be mailed to the Marengo County School System Technology Coordinator.
6. Full names of students may only be used in reporting student participation in school-sponsored activities, achievements, and other positive recognitions.
7. Materials that infringe on any copyright held by others are prohibited.
8. Any materials that are obscene, harassing, or threatening are prohibited.
9. The Marengo County School System Technology Coordinator will inform the administration of each school of any written notification from a parent/guardian regarding the posting of student information on the Internet.

Webmasters may link to other websites provided the content on the linked site(s) meet the safety and professional standards set out in system policies and the linking page contains a disclaimer for the downstream website content and links.

Downloading from the Internet

Students may not download files of any type without the specific permission of their supervising teacher. Under no circumstances will students be permitted to download graphic, video, or audio files in any format that violates the letter or intention of this or any other school/system policy. No user may download any files which violate copyright laws.

ONLINE BEHAVIOR EDUCATION

All students will receive education about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response and interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms. This education will be provided through the implementation of the Technology Course of Study, through Internet safety awareness and education programs at each school, and through additional efforts made by the Student Services and other departments. In addition, educational materials and links regarding cyberbullying as well as safe and appropriate behavior will be placed on the System's website for access by parents and students.

LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

The Board and its employees make no guarantee that the functions or services provided by or through the System's network will be error-free or without defect. The Marengo County School System will not be responsible for any damage suffered by the user, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The Board will not be responsible for any financial obligations arising from the unauthorized or inappropriate use of system technology.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CHANGE

This policy may be changed by Board approval as deemed necessary to continue to ensure the safety of students and compliance with any and all laws and regulations.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS

This policy is intended to work in concert with other System policies, procedures, and guidelines in order to ensure the safe, ethical, and educational use of all technology within the system.

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

The Board permits restricted and conditional access to and use of its technology resources. The term "technology resources" is intended to have a broad interpretation. It includes, but is not limited to, computers, digital devices, electronic communication devices, network equipment, the Internet, e-mail, software, and online venues such as websites, blogs, and online class management systems. Such access and use is restricted to students who are engaged in bona fide educational activities that serve and are consistent with identified educational objectives and who, by signing an acknowledgement form, agree to abide by all Board policies, rules, and regulations regarding technology use.

The Board reserves the right to place conditions on, restrict, or prohibit the use of personally-owned technology resources on its property. In addition, the Board's policies, rules, and regulations also apply to personally-owned technology resources brought on to school property.

Parents of minor students (under the age of 17) may request that their child(ren) not be allowed to independently access the Internet by notifying the school principal in writing within fifteen (15) school days of the student's first day of attendance each school year. This restriction will apply to the student independently operating any Board technology resource to access the Internet, and does not prohibit the student from viewing Internet sites presented by school personnel or by other students as part of a lesson, or from using Internet-hosted software used by the school.

RESTRICTION AND LOSS OF PRIVILEGES

Students are responsible for their behavior as it relates to technology. Therefore, all students should keep their login and passwords secure at all times. Students who violate any Board policy, rule, or regulation regarding technology use may be denied the use of the Board's technology resources, may be prohibited from bringing personally-owned technology onto school property, and may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Technology networks can provide individuals with access to locations in the United States and around the world. Students and parents should be aware that they may be liable for hurtful speech, invasion of privacy, copyright, and other violations in all fifty (50) states and worldwide. The Board will cooperate with any properly executed request from any local, state, or federal law enforcement agency or civil court.

OWNERSHIP OF RESOURCES AND EXPECTATIONS OF PRIVACY

All technology resources, including but not limited to, network and Internet resources, accounts, e-mail systems, computers or other devices owned, leased, or maintained by the Board are the sole property of the Board. Users of school system technology

resources have no personal right of privacy or confidentiality with respect to the use or content of such resources. Authorized Board personnel may, at any time and without prior notice, access, search, examine, inspect, collect, or retrieve information of any kind from the Board's technology resources, including computer or related equipment, files, and data to determine if a user is in violation of any of the Board's policies, any other matter or reason related to the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, or administration.

In addition, any device (regardless of ownership) brought onto school grounds by a student is subject to immediate inspection when there is a reasonable suspicion that the contents or recent utilization of the device is in violation of any of the Board's policies, rules, or regulations regarding access to and use of technology resources.

AVAILABILITY AND SECURITY OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES / DATA

The System does not guarantee its students that all of the files that they store on the Board's technology resources or the resources themselves will be available, backed up, or protected 100% of the time. The System will take reasonable steps to maintain the security of technology resources; however, no assurance can be given that security breaches will not occur. In addition, network administrators or their designees reserve the right to remove users' files without warning.

ADOPTION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Superintendent is authorized to develop additional or more specific rules and regulations regarding access to and use of technology resources and to require adherence to such rules and regulations through such means as the "Acceptable Use Practices" (AUP) Rules and Regulations, Internet safety policy, and application of appropriate disciplinary policies and procedures.

LIMITATION ON LIABILITY

The Board makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through the Board's technology resources will be error-free or without defect. The Board will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to loss of data, failure to block or filter, or interruption of service.

Although the Board claims ownership of its various technology resources, all user-generated data, including email content and digital images, is implicitly understood to be representative of the author's individual point of view and not that of the school or school system. Students and their parents must also be aware that the Board cannot assume any liability arising out of the illegal or inappropriate use of technology resources.

INTERNET SAFETY AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE PRACTICES POLICY

Dear Parents and Students:

The Marengo County Schools' Internet Safety and Internet Acceptable Use Practices Policy is designed to provide guidelines for using Internet resources in the classrooms, school media center, computer labs of your school, or at home on Marengo County issued devices this year. Please take the time to read this policy. If you have any questions about it, please be sure to contact the technology coordinator, at (334) 295-2232.

This policy must be read and signed both by the student and a parent / guardian, and then returned to your child's homeroom teacher. Please return the signed form as soon as possible, since you will not be given access to the Internet until you have agreed to this policy.

Please note that if you violate the terms of this policy, you may lose privileges or receive punishment as defined in the student handbook. It is your responsibility to read and ask questions about this policy.

Your teacher is planning an in-class discussion of this policy after you have had a chance to become familiar with it.

Sincerely,

Kalvin Eaton, Ed.D
Superintendent