

Policy

WEB PUBLISHING: STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The Mount Laurel Township School District Board of Education recognizes that telecommunications technology to include the World Wide Web offers individuals across the world a window through which to view the work of pupils and staff as well as share general information about the school district. The board also recognizes the value of the World Wide Web in communicating with members of the school and local community on a consistent and ever-present basis beyond the confines of the normal school day. The board supports the establishment of Internet sites utilizing district telecommunications facilities, but reserves the right to limit use of those facilities to materials appropriate for educational and informational purposes. The board directs the chief school administrator to effect training of staff members in skills appropriate to analyzing and evaluating those purposes.

The board also recognizes that the vast audience of the World Wide Web necessitates certain controls upon content published through district facilities for purposes of safety, security and compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations. The board retains the right to have district personnel monitor World Wide Web sites housed on school facilities in any form necessary to maintain the integrity of content and insure proper use of this communications device.

Standards and Guidelines for World Wide Web Use

Individuals will be prohibited from use of district computer networks or World Wide Web servers for publication of any material, which is deemed illegal or inappropriate by the district web manager.

- A. Illegal materials are defined as items which violate federal, state or local laws or regulations. Inappropriate materials are defined as those which violate the intended use of the World Wide Web for educational or informational purposes;
- B. Publishing materials on district web sites which violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts;
- C. Publishing material on district facilities which:
 - 1. Contains spelling or grammatical errors;
 - 2. Includes personal information about students or staff members beyond their affiliation with the district during the normal school day;
 - 3. Identifies students by name in correlation to their photograph;
 - 4. Consists of purely recreational matter, or links directly to game or entertainment sites without educational value;
 - 5. Fails to include a proper disclaimer statement on each page;
 - 6. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational and informational purposes for which district World Wide Web resources are provided.

Consent Requirement

No pupil shall be allowed to develop, assist or participate in publication of materials to the World Wide Web through district facilities unless they shall have filed with system administrator a consent form signed by the pupil and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

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No pupil, group of pupils, teacher, staff member or employee shall publish materials to the World Wide Web on district facilities without first submitting such material, through the appropriate content sponsor, to the district web manager for approval.

Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to prohibition from publication of materials to the World Wide Web through district computer facilities and other appropriate discipline, which includes but is not limited to:

- A. Use of web site servers only under direct supervision;
- B. Suspension of web site server privileges;
- C. Revocation of web site server privileges;
- D. Suspension from school;
- E. Expulsion from school; and/or
- F. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

Adopted: August 24, 1999
 Revised: March 25, 2003, May 24, 2005
 NJSBA Review/Update: June 2013
 Readopted: January 28, 2014

Key Words

Publication, Articles, News,

Legal Reference: N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8 Interest of school officers, etc., in sale of textbooks or supplies; royalties
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-33.1 Grant program; innovative educational ideas and techniques

Possible

Cross References: *1110 Media
 *1111 District publications
 *1140 Distribution of materials by pupils and staff
 1313 Gifts to district employees
 *4112.8 Nepotism
 *4119.21 Conflict of interest
 *4119.22 Conduct and dress
 *4138 Nonschool employment
 *4212.8 Nepotism
 *9270 Conflict of interest

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.