

# Policy Guides

Section	PROGRAMS
Title	ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE LMSD-NET BY STUDENTS
Date Adopted	7/15/96
Date Last Revised	10/22/01; 3/7/05
Classification	

Guide		Reference
<p>Purpose</p> <p>Definition</p> <p>Policy</p>	<p><b>134 ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE LMSD-NET BY STUDENTS</b></p> <p>The Board of School Directors recognizes the need to establish regulations for student use of the Lower Merion School District Wide Area Network consistent with the educational mission of the school district. The LMSD Net is to be used to provide access to information beyond that which is available in school district libraries, to expand the research capabilities of students, and to promote the exchange of educational ideas and information.</p> <p><i>LMSD-Net</i> is the working title for the proposed District network.</p> <p><i>Network Administrator</i> is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and upkeep of the network.</p> <p><i>System Integrity</i> - the maintenance of accurate and consistent information throughout the network.</p> <p><u>Rights and Responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will have access to the resources of the LMSD-Net and the Internet so long as they comply with rules and restrictions established by this policy and implemented by Lower Merion School District staff.</li> <li>• Students will complete the designated LMSD-Net and Internet training.</li> <li>• Students and a parent or guardian will sign a form acknowledging receipt of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).</li> <li>• Students will be responsible for their own behavior when using school computer networks, consistent with the educational purpose outlined in the AUP guidelines.</li> <li>• Students, parents, and employees of the school district are jointly responsible for ensuring the educational value of the information and resources which are both accessed and published via the network.</li> </ul>	

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Restrictions

The LMSD-Net shall not be used

1. for the posting or distribution of information that:
  - a. is harmful or prejudicial to students; for example, materials which are libelous and obscene as defined by the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States;
  - b. fosters disruptiveness among the students so as to interfere with the learning environment of the school district;
  - c. threatens immediate harm to the welfare of the school community or any individual;
  - d. discriminates against any segment of the student body or interferes with another's individual rights;
  - e. encourages and abets unlawful activity;
  - f. violates the separation of church and state.
2. for illegal activity, including the violation of copyright laws;
3. to access or obtain pornographic materials;
4. to send material that has been determined to be offensive or objectionable;
5. to intentionally cause damage to hardware, software or data;
6. to gain or attempt to gain access to restricted material or systems;
7. for gambling;
8. for participation in chat rooms;
9. for nonschool-related purposes on more than an incidental basis;  
and
10. to otherwise violate school rules.

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<p>Responsibility</p>	<p><u>Disclaimers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Although students are primarily responsible for the use of the LMSD-Net in accordance with the above restrictions, the School District shall use blocking software such as Websense to protect minor students from obscene material, child pornography and other visual depictions deemed harmful to minors (as defined by the Children’s Internet Protection Act) on the Internet. An administrator, supervisor or person authorized by the school board may disable the technology protection measure if needed for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.</li> <li>2. The staff, the school and the School District are not responsible for any damages incurred, including but not limited to the loss of data stored on the LMSD-Net, or the loss of personal property used to access the LMSD-Net.</li> <li>3. The School District will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations incurred throughout the use of the LMSD-Net.</li> <li>4. Network security is designed to allow access to certain areas only by designated users; however, the network administrator may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that students are using the system responsibly.</li> <li>5. Users should not expect that files stored on District resources will be private.</li> <li>6. The School District will not be responsible for the accuracy, nature or quality of information stored on the LMSD-Net or gathered through Internet access.</li> </ol> <p><u>Sanctions</u></p> <p>A student’s failure to abide by the rules and regulations of this policy will subject the student to the usual disciplinary procedures of the District (Student Code of Conduct).</p> <p>The Superintendent of schools shall implement a program which educates students about the risks and consequences associated with the use of the LMSD-Net.</p>	

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A student claiming that he or she has been denied access by this policy to material that is not within the prohibitions of this policy shall be afforded expedited review and resolution of this claim.

The Superintendent of schools shall create guidelines which describe how the policy will be implemented.