

## USE OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGING BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As elected public officials, School Committee members shall exercise caution when communicating between and among themselves via electronic messaging services including, but not limited to, electronic mail (e-mail), text messages, social media postings, internet web forums, and internet chat rooms.

Under the Open Meeting Law, deliberation by a quorum of members constitutes a meeting. Deliberation is defined as movement toward a decision including, but not limited to, the sharing of an opinion regarding business over which the Committee has supervision, control, or jurisdiction. A quorum may be arrived at sequentially using electronic messaging without knowledge and intent by the author.

School Committee members should use electronic messaging between and among members only for housekeeping purposes such as requesting or communicating agenda items, meeting times, or meeting dates. Electronic messaging should not be used to discuss Committee matters that require public discussion under the Open Meeting Law.

Under the Public Records Law, electronic messages between public officials may be considered public records. Therefore, in order to ensure compliance the district shall provide district e-mail addresses, which are archived.

SOURCE: MASC - Updated 2023

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L.[4:7](#); [30A:18-25](#); [66:10](#)

CROSS REF: EHB – DATA/RECORDS RETENTION

## **DISTRICT SECURITY RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY**

The protection of sensitive data and technology is vital in supporting teaching and learning through access to resources, information, learning activities, interpersonal communications, research, training, collaboration, curriculum, and materials.

The School Committee recognizes data and information as resources that must be protected from unauthorized access or use, and, as such, supports a balance of security and access. The Committee expects district staff, student, and family data to be protected by adequate controls commensuration with the sensitivity of the data.

The Committee directs the Superintendent to develop and maintain an effective district data protection system of procedures for the protection of sensitive district information. Such procedures should protect the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of district information.

SOURCE: MASC 2023

## DATA AND RECORDS RETENTION

The School Committee recognizes that, as an entity of local government, every District record is presumed to be public unless it may be withheld under a specific exemption. The custodian of public records of the district is {X}; contact information for this position will be placed in a prominent position on the district website.

The District is responsible for a myriad of records which vary in the length of time retention is required. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring such retention requirements are followed.

Under the Public Records Law, electronic messages between public officials, including public employees, may be considered public records. As such, all district employees and the School Committee will be given district email address, with which they are to conduct all district business, so the district may comply with public records requirements.

SOURCE: MASC 2023

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L.4:7; 66:10

REF: A Guide to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (Secretary of the Commonwealth)

CROSS REFS.: BHE - USE OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGING BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
GBEE – PERSONNEL USE OF TECHNOLOGY

## PERSONNEL USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The School Committee recognizes that the use of technology is an important part of preparing students for adult life. As such, the School Committee expects that staff will use technology as provided, as necessary, and as beneficial.

Employees shall use digital resources in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of the district. Staff members are responsible for teaching and for modeling responsible digital citizenship. The digital resources are provided to support the work of the district; occasional personal communication is permitted so long as such use does not interfere with the employee's job duties and performance, with systems operation, other users, or network performance. All use must comply with the policies and procedures of the X Public Schools.

All staff must agree to and sign an HPS Acceptable Use and HPS Written Information Security Program (WISP) form prior to being granted access to district digital resources.

Staff is required to use their school-issued accounts, not personal accounts, for all communication with students, and parents/guardians; such accounts must be used with other staff members when conducting school business.

Employees communication is a matter of public record. This extends to employee use of social media when conducting district business.

Any online activities that would not be considered appropriate in the classroom should not be conducted online. High standards of appropriate online communication and conduct must be maintained.

All contact and messages by coaches and faculty advisors with team members shall be sent to all team members, except for messages concerning medical or academic privacy matters, in which case the messages will be copied to the appropriate administrator.

When interacting with students online, group interactions are encouraged and should include two staff members. One-to-one interactions should be avoided.

Failure to uphold the responsibilities above is misuse, which may lead to disciplinary action.

## ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES

The School Committee supports the right of students, employees, and community members to have reasonable access to various information formats and believes it is incumbent upon users to utilize this privilege in an appropriate manner. The School Committee intends to support such use with appropriate budgetary allocations, providing for timely updates to technology as necessary

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Director of Technology, shall develop and implement appropriate procedures to provide guidance for access to digital resources.

SOURCE: MASC 2023

LEGAL REFS: 47 USC § 254

**Note: FCC regulations that went into effect April 20, 2001, implementing The Children's Internet Protection Act (47 U.S.C. § 254) require each school/district to certify compliance with certain policy requirements in order to maintain eligibility for Internet access discounts and other services provided by the federal government.**

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN INSTRUCTION**

### **Purpose**

The School Committee recognizes the need for students to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the district provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets. Information and communication technology are an integrated part of the curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

Students shall use digital resources in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner.

SOURCE: MASC 2023

CROSS REF: ACAB SEXUAL HARRASSMENT  
GBEB STAFF CONDUCT  
GBEBD ONLINE FUNDRAISING AND SOLICITATION  
INJD ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES  
INJDC ACCEPTABLE USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

SOURCE: MASC 2023

## ACCEPTABLE USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Director of Technology, shall develop and implement appropriate procedures to provide guidance for access to digital resources. Guidelines shall address teacher supervision of digital resources, ethical use of such resources and issues of online privacy. In addition, procedures shall prohibit utilization of digital resources for prohibited or illegal activities and for the use of other programs with the potential of damaging or destroying programs or data.

Technology procedures shall be implemented that effectively address the following:

- Controlling access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA);
- Safety and security of minors in use of digital resources;
- Preventing unauthorized access, including hacking, viruses, and other unlawful activities by minors online

All students must agree to and sign an appropriate digital use form developed by the Superintendent in conjunction with the Director of Technology; this form must also be signed by the parent or guardian for students under the age of 18.

All staff must agree to and sign an appropriate digital use form prior to being granted access to district digital resources. Employees must use district resources for the purposes directly related to educational and instructional purposes.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent in conjunction with the Director of Technology, the district shall determine when and which digital resources can be made available to the community. All guest users will be prompted to and must accept a digital use agreement prior to use.

**Those violating the digital use agreement will be subject to appropriate consequences.**

SOURCE: MASC 2023

LEGAL REF: 47 USC § 254

CROSS REF: GBEE PERSONNEL USE OF TECHNOLOGY  
JICJ STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY  
KDC COMMUNITY USE OF DISTRICT RESOURCES



## **STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS**

The School Committee recognizes that the use of technology is an important part of students being prepared for adult life. As such, the student use of technology part of their education is to be encouraged, as teaching students appropriate use of technology is part of the responsibility of the district.

Annually, all students must agree to and sign an appropriate digital use form developed by the Superintendent in conjunction with the Director of Technology; this form must also be signed for the parent or guardian for students under the age of 18.

Students shall utilize digital resources in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Students are required to abide by the district Code of Conduct in their use, both on and offline, of district digital resources, which should be regarded as an extension of the classroom.

Students are reminded that there is no expectation of privacy in the use of district digital resources.

Failure to abide by district policies and procedures regarding the use of district digital resources will be met with consequences.

SOURCE: MASC 2023

LEGAL REF: 47 USC § 254

CROSS REF: ACAB SEXUAL HARRASSMENT  
JICFB BULLYING PREVENTION  
JK STUDENT CONDUCT  
INJD ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES  
INJDC ACCEPTABLE USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES