



## MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Safe Technology and Digital Citizenship FAQ

This FAQ report was created to help parents understand MCSD efforts to foster an atmosphere of safe, positive, and productive digital citizenship amongst our students and educators.

### **What internet filters are being used and how do they work?**

MCSD uses the Utah Education Network (UEN) recommended iBoss content filtering. This system is the standard in the state of Utah for schools. We also use a Sophos firewall that has its own filtering functionality for content not effectively blocked by iBoss. Content is categorized and allowed or blocked according to default settings that are deemed appropriate for K-12 education. Chromebooks using district email accounts are not able to access the internet until the device is connected to our iBoss filters.

Despite the use of industry-proven preventative measures, Internet filtering is an evolving technology. The ability to bypass filters or trick them is also evolving. The District Technology Department updates content lists daily and the firmware frequently to keep the platform stable. As such, there are slim, infrequent opportunities for MCSD computer users to inadvertently access inappropriate sites or material. In such cases, students are encouraged to notify a school employee immediately. Employees experiencing such incidents should report to school-level administration. The District Technology Department will follow up and take appropriate action, needed adjustments, and preventative measures.

### **Are there different settings used for different grades and school levels?**

Although most blocked sites are blocked on all student and guest networks, we do have some different sets of filtering rules for elementary, junior high, and high school students. This gives students access to information they need for their courses. There are some sites allowed at the high school level that are not allowed at the junior high or elementary level. Similarly, there are some sites allowed at the junior high level that are not allowed at the elementary level.

### **How are frequently used sites such as YouTube and Google filtered?**

YouTube is available to students in restricted mode inside the schools. Students may only access YouTube inside the schools by logging in using their District-provided Gmail account. Students are only able to watch videos on YouTube that have been approved by MCSD teachers, MCSD employees, or administrative staff. Google searches are checked for specific keywords and sites are blocked according to the content rules set forth in the filtering software. An alert is sent to District technology personnel when these keywords are searched.

## **What management systems are used on devices that provide additional control?**

Desktop and Laptop Devices: LanSchool is used to manage desktop and laptop devices. This allows the teacher to monitor the screens of users from their computer and pause computer or internet usage to keep the class focused.

Chromebook Devices: Google management system is configured to only allow extensions to the Chrome browser that are approved by the District Technology Department. This management system allows the District to manage what apps and services are available for teachers and students.

iPads: The Apple Device Management System, Mosyle Manager, is used to manage all iPads in the District. This allows us to manage which apps are loaded onto the devices and to purchase apps legally for school use.

## **What resources does the District provide to educate students on safe internet use and digital citizenship?**

All students receive an online device orientation no later than October 15 of each school year. They receive at least one lesson in each of the following topics over the course of the school year: self-image and identity, cyberbullying, relationships and communication, privacy and security, information literacy. Additionally, teachers who have their students go online should include digital citizenship as part of their regular instruction.

In our secondary schools, specialty classes that use computers include digital citizenship as part of their curriculum. These classes include College and Career Awareness as well as Business and CTE classes. Each student in grades 9-12 is required to complete .5 credit of computer technology for high school graduation. Courses that fulfill this requirement include standards specifically addressing digital citizenship topics.

## **What resources does the District provide to educate parents/guardians on safe internet use and digital citizenship?**

The PowerUp page on our Teaching and Learning website has a link for digital citizenship lessons. We are using resources from Common Sense Education. Parents are provided a short video to watch during registration which introduces online safety and care of Chromebooks that are provided for their students.

## **What resources does the District provide to educate teachers on safe internet use and digital citizenship?**

All certified teachers are required to complete the online Murray School District Citizenship and Digital Learning course through Canvas or UEN face-to-face training. This course trains teachers on digital citizenship and how to keep their tech-savvy students safe while using different components of technology in and out of the classroom.

Additionally, a series of 21 District technology certification courses are available for teachers online through Canvas. These courses can be completed as teachers would like in an effort to strengthen their knowledge of digital learning in the classroom. Two technology instructional coaches are available for teachers to access with regards to digital citizenship and digital learning needs.

## **What is the protocol when inappropriate content is accessed?**

Teachers are asked to monitor students whenever they are online, either electronically or by walking around the classroom. When inappropriate content is accessed by a student or staff member (either seemingly by accident or on purpose), the student or students should be removed from the situation and the school administration should be notified. The devices should be isolated, and the District technology department should be contacted. Besides working to fix any issue discovered, the District technology department will work with the school administration to gather information and take appropriate measures if the Acceptable Use Policy was violated.

## **E-Rate Funding**

Federal E-Rate funding is used to pay for the Internet connections between our schools, the District office, and the Utah Education Network. E-Rate funding is also used to update network equipment in our schools.