

Internet Safety Policy
Compass Middle Charter School

INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

POLICY ISSUES REQUIRED TO BE ADDRESSED

1. Access by minors to inappropriate material:

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Compass Middle Charter School utilizes Polk County Public Schools’ internet and filters, as they are located within an existing Polk County Public Schools’ campus. The filter in place for student access is specific to the age levels of middle school students.

2. Safety/security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms, and other direct electronic communications:

Compass Middle Charter School promotes the safety and security of users of the online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Students receive Internet safety lessons in classes on these topics and the concepts are reinforced throughout the year. The school has a system in place to monitor student activity in emails and collaborative platforms specifically google educational platforms and email.

3. Unauthorized access, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities by minors online:

Compass Middle Charter students receive Internet safety lessons in classes on these topics and the concepts are reinforced throughout the year. Administration is assigned to monitor student activity through the Google administration console.

4. Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors:

Florida educators are required to adhere to The Code of Ethics and The Principles of Professional Conduct of The Education Profession in Florida and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) administered by the Federal government. Compass Middle Charter

students receive Internet safety lessons in classes about the importance of protecting your identity online and reinforced throughout the year. Programs utilized by Compass Middle Charter School must be approved for the PURE list and agree to the terms and conditions required through Florida Department of Education to be approved PURE vendors.

5. Measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors:

Efforts are ongoing to provide measures of protection from inappropriate material. Security software automatically categorizes Internet content according to pre-selected, intentional filtering techniques. Compass Middle Charter School utilizes Polk County Public Schools' internet and filters, as they are located within an existing Polk County Public Schools' campus. The filter in place for student access is specific to the age levels of middle school students. If possibly questionable web sites are discovered, it is brought to administration and added to blocked sites through the Google administration console.

6. Technology protection measure (filter)

- a. Specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access
- b. Must protect against access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors
- c. Can be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes. User access to network resources and filtered Internet content is determined by security groups based upon status as a student or staff member.

Compass Middle Charter School utilizes Polk County Public Schools' internet and filters, they are located within an existing Polk County Public Schools' campus. The filter in place for student access is specific to the age levels of middle school students. Administration is assigned to monitor content and access privileges through the Google administration console.

ADOPTION

This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Compass Middle Charter Governing Board during their August meeting held on August 28, 2023.