

**FB / MySpace / SN
Teacher Guidelines**

Protecting Children in the 21st century Act:

1. Adds statutory language to existing FCC rules for implementing CIPA.
2. Has an impact on ERate compliance.
3. Requires that school districts' **board policies** provide for the *education of minors regarding appropriate online behavior including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and regarding cyberbullying awareness and response.*
4. This requirement is in addition to existing CIPA requirements.

In addition to policy language, it is important to note that the FCC also specifically mentions Facebook and MySpace along with other social networking sites. The FCC finds that:

1. Individual pages on Facebook or MySpace might be potentially harmful to minors, but
2. These sites are not "**harmful to minors**", per se, and
3. Therefore, they do not fall into a category of websites which must be blocked.
4. Further noting recent work by the Department of Education, the FCC and the DOE suggest that "social networking websites have the potential to support student learning..." (FCC 11-125 Report and Order, p.8)
5. With the comments on Facebook and other social networking sites, and with the inclusion of social networking within required Board policy language, education and training around both appropriate and pedagogical uses of social networking resources will be critical
6. Districts and schools will need background and training on issues, materials, approaches, resources.

The attached document speaks to your district's "Internet Use Policy" and procedures.

The policy and procedures might have different names in different districts and schools. You will need to check for policy and procedures called by some variation of *Internet Use, Network Use, Internet Access, or Network Access* policy. You may also want to check your district's **Internet or network use/access agreement for students and staff.**

Suggested Teacher Guidelines

1. **Check and follow** your most current district / school policies and procedures on the use of social networking tools in schools.
2. **Keep** personal and professional/educational accounts separate.
 - a. There might be different, separate accounts through the same service, however.
 - b. Do not use social networking sites which do not come through your district network.
3. **Never friend a student** on a personal site.
4. **Do not share** personal information on your professional/educational site.
5. **Remember:** using a social networking site for educational purposes has the potential for extending your school day beyond the school day and the school walls.
 - a. It also has the potential of exposing students to your own or to others' personal information, even inadvertently.
6. **All rules** which **apply** to your bricks-and-mortar classroom and school apply to the online, social networking environment: bullying, harassment, courtesy, appropriate language, timeliness, etc.
7. **Inform and involve** school administration
8. **Inform and involve** parents/guardians as appropriate. However, this also may be problematic:
 - a. Inviting parents to join/participate would be tantamount to inviting parents to be involved in your classroom every day.
 - b. The parents would have to know that they should not join using their 'personal' sites.
 - c. Remember: there are students from broken, blended or other non-standard families, as well as some with no-contact orders. The teachers would have to be able to negotiate through all that in some, not too demanding way.
 - d. This might involve a small number of students, but potential risk and liability issues arise.
9. **Do not friend** other adults on your educational site.
 - a. Allow for the possibility of inviting "special guests" for specific educational purposes.
 - b. For such a professional guest profile-type, establish a vetting process, done by the educator using some sort of rubric.
 - c. Establish what the expert guest would need to agree to be involved?
 - d. Consider the involvement of teaching team members, student teachers, specialists, counselors and/or administrators
10. **Read, become familiar** with all site-related *Terms of Use* documentation.
11. **Read, understand and set** up all appropriate *privacy settings*.
12. **Instruct students** that this is an educational site;
 - a. They are not to share it with or invite others who are not in the class.
 - b. Use it for content instruction.
 - c. Use it for educating students about appropriate inline behavior.
13. **Instruct students** on both Terms of Use and privacy settings.
14. **Inform students** that you are obligated to report illegal behavior, child abuse, sexual abuse, etc.
15. **Monitor** the site closely.