

MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

Board Policy

BP 1113

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

District, School, Staff and Student Websites

To enhance communication with students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members, the Governing Board encourages the development and ongoing maintenance of district and school web sites. Web sites shall be aligned with the district's plans for communications and media relations.

The Superintendent or designee may establish design standards for district and school web sites in order to maintain a consistent identity, professional appearance, and ease of use.

Content

The Superintendent or designee shall develop content guidelines for district and school web sites. These guidelines shall be consistent with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

Staff, students, or other persons may submit materials for web publication to the district, Information and Technology Services Department, or school webmaster who shall ensure that the content adheres to district guidelines and policies.

District and school web sites shall not include content that is obscene, libelous, or slanderous, or which creates a clear and present danger of inciting students to commit unlawful acts, violate school rules, or substantially disrupt the school's orderly operation.

The Superintendent or designee should ensure that copyright laws are not violated in the use of material on district or school web sites.

Any links to external web sites shall support the educational mission and shall include a disclaimer that the district is not responsible for the content of external web sites.

Advertising on district or school web sites may be accepted under the same restrictions and conditions set forth in law, Board policy, and administrative regulations pertaining to advertising in district and school-sponsored publications.

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Privacy Rights

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that web site content protects the privacy rights of students, parents/guardians, staff, Board members, and other individuals. MCS will ensure that district websites are CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act), FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), NCLB (No Child Left Behind) and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.

Phone numbers, home addresses, and email addresses of students or their parents/guardians shall not be published on a district or school web page.

Other directory information including, but not limited to, photographs of individual students with their names may be published except when the student's parent/guardian has notified the district in writing to not allow the release of the student's photograph without prior written consent. Photographs of groups of students, such as at a school event, may be published provided that students' names are not included.

Home addresses or telephone numbers of staff members shall not be posted.

No public safety official shall be required as a condition of employment to consent to the posting on the Internet of his/her photograph or identity as a public safety officer for any purpose if that officer reasonably believes that the disclosure may result in a threat, harassment, intimidation, or harm to the officer or his/her family. (Government Code 3307.5)

District and school web sites shall not post the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official including, but not limited to, a Board member or public safety official, without the prior written permission of that individual. (Government Code 3307.5, 6254.21, 6254.24)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35182.5 Contracts for advertising
35258 Internet access to school accountability report cards
48907 Exercise of free expression; rules and regulations
48950 Speech and other communication
49061 Definitions, directory information
49073 Release of directory information
60048 Commercial brand names, contracts or logos

GOVERNMENT CODE

3307.5 Publishing identity of public safety officers
6254.21 Publishing addresses and phone numbers of officials
6254.24 Definition of public safety official

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 17

101-1101 Federal copyright law

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 16

312.1-312.12 Children's Online Privacy

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy

COURT DECISIONS

Aaris v. Las Virgenes Unified School District, (1998) 64 Cal.App.4th 1112
Perry Education Association v. Perry Local Educators' Association, (1983) 460 U.S.
37
Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District, et.al. v. Pico, (1982)
457 U.S. 853

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Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Governance: Community Leadership, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California School Public Relations Association: <http://www.calspra.org>

National School Public Relations Association: <http://www.nspra.org>