



## Policy for Internet and Network Access and CIPA Compliance Merit Preparatory Academy

### Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline measures Merit Preparatory Academy has implemented to ensure safe and appropriate internet use for students and teachers in compliance with CIPA.

### Definitions:

**CIPA:** Child Internet Protection Act

**Data Manager:** A Data Manager is an individual designated by a Local Education Agency (LEA) to fulfill the duties described in the Utah State Legislature's 53e-9-308

**FERPA**<sup>1</sup>: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

**PPRA**<sup>2</sup>: Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

**Student Data Protection Agreement**<sup>3</sup>: An agreement between an LEA and the USBE indicating that the LEA will protect personally identifiable student information and other regulated data exchanged between them as required by applicable laws and regulations including FERPA.

### Policy:

The internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to enhance the learning experience by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication in a safe and responsible way.

In accordance with CIPA requirements, internet use at Merit Preparatory Academy is monitored and automatically filtered to prevent the following:

1. Searching or navigating to sites involving pornographic or illegal content.
2. Searching or navigating to sites containing malicious content (sites that would hurt network devices and equipment- involving your own device)
3. Gambling websites
4. Unlawful activities such as "hacking"
5. The unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, Merit Preparatory Academy will provide education in Internet Safety (in compliance with CIPA) for all students.<sup>5</sup>

Students and teachers have access to:

1. E-mail
2. Public Domain Sites

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<sup>1</sup> [FERPA](#)

<sup>2</sup> [PPRA](#)

<sup>3</sup> [LEA Student Data Privacy Agreement](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment](#)

<sup>5</sup> [CIPA certification requirements](#)

To ensure internet safety and compliance with state and federal law,<sup>6</sup> teachers must get approval to use apps in class or with students from the Data Manager. All apps used at Merit Preparatory Academy must have a signed Student Data Protection Agreement approved by the state on file. The Data Manager monitors the use of all apps used at Merit to ensure student data is protected and that such use is in compliance with Utah Code 53e-9-308, FERPA and PPRA

Students are allowed to bring their own personal device that is connected to the internet via service they pay for (*i.e. iPads, smart phones, kindles, and cell phones*). Content accessed through this medium can be monitored or filtered by our Internet Security Vendor when on the school's network. To ensure safe internet use and protection of student information, it is recommended students use the school's network.

Teachers may allow students to access their devices for educational purposes.

**Students and parents agree that:**

1. If a student uses a device without the teacher's permission:

**1st offense:** Student's device will be confiscated and the student can pick it up from the teacher at the end of the day.

**2nd offense:** Student's device will be confiscated and taken to the front office. The student can pick it up at the end of the day.

**3rd offense:** Student's device will be confiscated and taken to the front office. A parent or guardian will need to pick it up - it will not be released to the student.

2. The student will not access or search out sites containing pornographic or illegal content such as using school provided network infrastructures.

a. Obscene, nude, sexually explicit, R-Rated, or explicit images or content

b. Illegal drugs, criminal behavior, hate or discrimination, school cheating, or terrorist activities.

*\*Students reported accessing the content listed in 2a and 2b will be investigated with the possibility of, but not limited to, parental conference, suspension or expulsion from school, and/or civil and criminal charges filed against the student.*

*\*Students attempting to physically vandalize, hack into, or compromise networks or network and computer equipment in any way will be disciplined up to suspension or expulsion from school, and/or civil and criminal charges filed against them.*

**STUDENT:**

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Merit Preparatory Academy acceptable use policy for internet and network access.

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN:**

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Internet Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. Merit Academy has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the School to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my student's use is not in a school setting.

Board Approved: 3/21/23

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<sup>6</sup> See CIPA above & [Utah Code 53e-9-308](#)