



# MORTON COLLEGE BOARD POLICY

Illinois Community College District No. 527

**TITLE:** Information Technology Usage

**NO.** 8.20

**SECTION:** Institutional

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Morton College provides access to information technology, including electronic mail, voice mail, electronic bulletin boards, personal computers, the Internet/Network, including Internet/Network access through handheld devices, and cellular telephones to assist its administrators, faculty, staff, and students (collectively, "Technology Users") with achieving greater efficiencies in communication and information retrieval and dissemination. These tools represent a considerable commitment of the College's resources. This policy is designed to help clarify the College's expectations for the use of these tools and to help Technology Users use these and other tools wisely.

All Technology Users are responsible for using these tools in an effective, ethical, and lawful manner. Nonobservance of this *Information Technology Usage Policy* will subject violators to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including the for-cause termination of employees and the expulsion of students. The application of this *Information Technology Usage Policy* to students is in addition to the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct.

Technology Users do not have a personal privacy right in any matter stored, created, received, or sent from the College's electronic mail, voice mail, Internet, Network, or computer systems. The College, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to monitor, access, retrieve, and delete any matter stored, created, received, or sent from the electronic mail, voice mail, Internet, Network, and computer systems, and to monitor and record Internet and Network and other information technology usage for any reason and without the permission of the Technology User.

The College uses passwords for certain of its technologies and its applications. Passwords are used to provide security and delineate data and its access on a need-to-know basis. The existence of a password or other security measures does not in any way diminish the College's authority to access materials nor create any privacy expectation for Technology Users. Technology Users shall not share his/her password with anyone except as set forth in the current Administrative Policy, which may be amended from time to time, as this practice controls access and accountability. Technology Users shall change their passwords according to the current Administrative Policy, as may be amended from time to time. Technology Users shall not leave their electronic device unattended while signed on under their password.

The College's electronic mail, voice mail, Internet, Network, computer systems, and information transmitted by, received from, or stored on these tools are the property of the

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College, and not its Technology Users. The College expects that Technology Users who are granted access to electronic mail, voice mail, the Internet, Network, computer systems, and its data and intellectual property will use these resources to perform research or other purposes related to the business of the College. Technology Users are expected to demonstrate a sense of responsibility and not abuse this privilege. The College shall determine in its sole discretion what constitutes incidental and occasional use.

Administrators, faculty and staff who require access to social networking or similar non-traditional websites for authorized business purposes should advise their supervisors of the web addresses of the sites that they will regularly visit for business purposes.

In no event shall Technology Users use information systems in a way that may be disruptive or offensive to others, harmful to morale, or in violation of the College's policies or the law. Examples of prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, viewing, displaying, printing, making, and disseminating harassing or offensive statements or jokes based on sex, age, race, color, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, religion, citizenship, military status, marital status, or any other basis prohibited by applicable law. Sending, forwarding, displaying, printing, or otherwise disseminating material that is harassing, offensive, disparaging, defamatory, sexually explicit or suggestive, obscene, fraudulent, or illegal is prohibited.

The College's other policies, including the policy against sexual and other harassment and its Identity Theft Prevention Program, apply fully to electronic mail, voice mail, electronic bulletin boards, personal computers, the Internet/Network, including Internet/Network access through handheld devices and cellular telephones, and any usage of these tools. This *Information Technology Usage Policy* applies equally to usage of College equipment and information technology tools on College premises and off College premises.

This policy shall not limit the College's right to take further action in response to unauthorized, illegal, or otherwise unacceptable use of the College's information technology tools. The College shall determine in its sole discretion what constitutes unacceptable use.

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## USE OF THE COLLEGE'S WEBSITE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC FORUMS

The College's website is an important tool used to promote the College and its programs and services to prospective students, alumni, businesses, and members of the public. For this reason, the College shall control all material posted on its official website, [www.morton.edu](http://www.morton.edu), and associated pages, and all Board Policies, including without limitation, the Publication and Publicity Policy, No. 2.8, and the Official Authority Policy, No. 4.4, shall apply to the College's official website, [www.morton.edu](http://www.morton.edu).

Any website created or maintained by any Technology User, which refers in any way to the Technology User's employment, enrollment, or other association, past or present, with the College, shall include a statement making clear that the views and opinions expressed are strictly those of the author(s) and have not been reviewed or approved by the College.

Technology Users shall not place or attempt to place any hyperlink on the College's official website.

Any Technology User posting on a third-party website or other electronic forum shall abide by all Board policies and take steps similar to those described in the preceding paragraph to make clear that the views expressed are not those of the College.

## GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The College has established the following Guidelines for users of email, the Internet, Network, computer facilities and data, and intellectual property and data provided by the College, as well as other technological tools that, when used inappropriately, could be harmful to the rights of the College or members of the College community. These Guidelines should be used in conjunction with the College's *Information Technology Usage Policy* and are intended to be consistent with that Policy. Should any discrepancy exist between these Guidelines and the *Information Technology Usage Policy*, the *Information Technology Usage Policy* shall prevail. This is intended to provide general principles for usage, and is not an exhaustive list of the Guidelines. The College expects that administrators, faculty, staff, and students shall use information technology tools in accordance with relevant laws and the highest standards of ethics.

1. All administrators, faculty, staff members, and students should conduct themselves appropriately in the use of information technology tools, and respect copyrights, software licensing rules, and other intellectual and data property rights.

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2. Users shall respect the privacy of others. Administrators, faculty, staff members, and students shall refrain from accessing others' electronic communications, electronic files, data, and stored communications, including voice mail messages without consent.
3. Administrators, faculty, staff members, and students shall refrain from using cameras, camera phones, cell phones, or other means to photograph or record others without their consent or to otherwise harass, intimidate, or invade the privacy rights of others. No cameras, video recorders, camera phones, or other equipment enabling photographs, movies, or other visual image recording may be used in classrooms, changing areas, restrooms, locker rooms, or business development areas without prior approval from the Board or its authorized designees.
4. The Morton College email system shall not be used *for* the creation or distribution of any disruptive or offensive messages, including offensive comments about race, gender, hair color, disabilities, age, sexual orientation, pornography, religious beliefs, and national origin. Employees who receive any emails with this content from any Morton College employee should report the matter to their supervisor. Users are prohibited from automatically forwarding Morton College email to a third party email system. Individual messages which are forwarded by the user, must not contain Morton College confidential information. Users are prohibited from using third-party email systems and storage servers such as Google, Yahoo, and MSN Hotmail etc. to conduct Morton College Business, to create or memorialize any binding transactions, or to store or retain email on behalf of Morton College. Such communications and transactions should be conducted through proper channels, using Morton College-approved documentation.
5. Administrators, faculty, staff and students shall not use anonymous or pseudonymous communications that conceal their identity, and shall not hold themselves out as official spokespersons for the College, or otherwise create such an impression, when expressing personal opinions in any communications.
6. College facilities, intellectual property, and information technology tools are to be used for College-related activities and not for any commercial purpose.

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7. Some reasonable personal use of information technology tools provided by the College is allowed, but should be limited and in no way interfere with or impact the administrator, faculty, staff member, or student's work, business systems, or College matters.
  8. No administrator, faculty, staff member, or student may use College facilities to download, upload, or distribute pirated software or data, or to deliberately propagate malicious software. No administrator, faculty, staff member, or student may use the College's Internet or other facilities to knowingly disable or overload any computer system or network, or to circumvent any system intended to protect the privacy or security of another person or electronic system.
  9. No administrator, faculty, staff member, or student may use College facilities or equipment to display, copy, or share files, or take any other action, in violation of any law, including without limitation, federal Copyright law.
  10. No administrator, faculty, staff member, or student shall download music, videos, or similar files from any third-party website unless the same is required for College business and obtained legally from an authorized source.

## CONSEQUENCES OF INAPPROPRIATE OR PROHIBITED USE OF MORTON COLLEGE'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TOOLS OR WEBSITE

Administrators, faculty, staff members, and students shall be responsible to the College for any costs, fees, fines, or other damages, including attorneys' fees, incurred by the College as a result of unauthorized downloading of copyright-protected files or any other unauthorized or inappropriate use of the College's information technology tools.

The College will immediately report any criminal conduct to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. In its sole discretion and as required by law, the College shall provide to law enforcement and/or persons alleging civil damages, the names of any administrator, faculty, staff member, or student implicated in the unauthorized downloading of copyright-protected files.

The failure to comply with this *Information Technology Usage Policy* and/or any other illegal or inappropriate use of the College's information technology tools will result in disciplinary action, up to and including the for-cause termination of employees and the expulsion of students.

Nothing in this policy is intended to violate or limit the Constitutional guarantee of free speech or the right to academic freedom.

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