

Acceptable Use Policy Talbot County School

Please read the following carefully before signing the attached contract.

It is the belief of the Talbot County School System that the use of telecommunications, including the Internet, in instructional programs is an educational strategy which facilitates communication, innovation, and resource sharing and access to information. Use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational mission, goals and objectives of the school system. It shall be the policy of the Talbot County Board of Education that the school system shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school, having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying “technology protection measure,” as that term is defined in **Section 1703 (b)(1)** of the **Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000; and**
2. Procedures or guideline developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities or users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to those terms as defined in Section 170(b)(1) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to :
 - a. Provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to extent practicable access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web:
 - b. Promote the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications:
 - c. Prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unauthorized activities by minors online;
 - d. Prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use of dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
 - e. Restrict minors’ access to materials “harmful to minors,” as that term is defined in **Section 1703 (b)(2)** of the **Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000.**

I. DEFINITION:

The **Internet** is a worldwide collection of computer networks that serves as a conduit for the transfer of messages and files. The **Internet** is not a single network; rather it consists of thousands of individual networks that allow information to pass among them.

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Internet/Network is to facilitate communication in support of research and education by providing access to resources by way of the WAN (Wide Area Network), the LAN (Local Area Network), and the stand-alone computer in the building. These resources are as follows.

- A. Electronic Mail
- B. Internet Resources
- C. Shared software, public domain software, shareware
- D. Discussion groups that support the instructional program

III. USER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Users have an obligation to be responsible participants while exploring the vast resources that are available on the Network, Internet, and Intranet, and must adhere to the generally accepted rules of etiquette. Illegal activities of any kind are strictly forbidden. The standards include, but are not limited to the following:

- **EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES:** Users will only use the Internet for educational purposes. Users will not access inappropriate sites on the Internet. Use of the Internet for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited.
- **PRIVACY/SAFETY:** Student users will not release personal information about themselves, their families, or others without explicit permission.
- **PASSWORDS:** User must exercise reasonable care to protect passwords. Student users should not share passwords except with their parents, teachers, and administrators.
- **ELECTRONIC MAIL (e-mail):** E-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- **GOOD MANNERS:** Users should be polite. For example, users should never send, or encourage others to send, abusive messages.
- **DOWNLOADING INTERNET FILES:** Downloading Internet Files or large documents will disrupt use of the network by others and is prohibited. Downloading also carries the risk of potential computer viruses.
- **TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING MATERIALS:** **Transmitting** or receiving any materials in violation of United States of Georgia laws is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, **copyrighted material, threatening or obscene materials, or material protected by patent.**
- **VANDALISM:** Vandalism on the Network, Internet, or Intranet is any malicious attempt to harm or destroy the data of another user. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses or modifying another person's files.

IV. SANCTION FOR MISUSE:

- A. Violations may result in a loss of access to the Internet/network.
- B. Specific disciplinary actions involving student misuse will be determined at the school/building level in accordance with **Board of Education Policy** and the **Talbot County School Behavior Code**.
- C. Employees of the School District who are in violation of this Standard of Acceptable Use of the Internet/network are subject to possible disciplinary sanctions in accordance with **Board of Education Policies and Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated**.
- D. Anyone who defaces or injures property shall make restitution for damages.

V. Acceptable Use Agreement:

- All users granted independent access to the Internet/Network must have an Acceptable Use Agreement form on file in a known location at the school or building site.
- Students' completed Agreement form must have both **student and parent signatures**.
- A copy of the **Talbot County School District Acceptable Use Agreement Form** follows.

**TALBOT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) Agreement Form**

Date: _____
Last Name _____ First: _____ Middle: _____
Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher _____

Parent or Guardian Authorization:

As the parent or guardian of the above named user, I hereby certify that I have read and understand the Talbot County School District Standards for Acceptable Use of the Internet/Network. I understand that this access is designed for educational purpose and that my student's school and the School District have taken available precautions to control controversial materials. However, I also recognize it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold Talbot County School District responsible for materials acquired on the Internet. With that understanding, I hereby give permission to the Talbot County School District to provide Internet/Network access to my student. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Talbot County school District, its employees and agents, for any and all claims arising from or related to my child's use or misuse of the Internet/Network, and waive any and all claims I may have against the District for such use or misuse.

I grant permission for my student to use the Internet and Network.

Yes No

I grant permission for my student to use an email account at school for instructional purposes only.

Yes No

I grant permission for my student's information to be released in local news agencies for publication concerning school events.

Yes No

I grant permission for publication of any work of my student.

Yes No

I grant permission for my student's name to be published on the school and/or district website.

Yes No

I grant permission for my student's photograph to be published on the school and/or district website.

Yes No

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print) _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____
Student Signature: _____ Date: _____