

# Student Access to and Use of Networked Information Resources

## *Tri-County Public Schools*

### Introduction

The Board of Education recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of society, these changes will alter instruction and student learning. The Board generally supports access by students to rich information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship.

Telecommunications, electronic information and networked services significantly alter the information landscape for schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources. In the past, instructional and library media materials could usually be screened prior to use. Telecommunications, because they may lead to any publicly available fileservers in the world, may open communications to electronic information resources which have not been screened by educators for use by students at various grade levels.

Access to telecommunications will enable students to explore thousands of libraries and databases throughout the world. Students will also have the opportunity to exchange messages with people around the globe. With access to computers and people all over the world comes the availability of material that may not be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The Tri-County Schools have taken measures to prevent access to inappropriate information; however, we cannot control all the information available on the Internet. The School District is not responsible for other people's actions or the quality and content of information available. The Board believes that the benefits to student from access in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, Tri-County Public School's support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for student access to networked information resources.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications shall apply to computer network use. The network is provided for students and staff to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. The following guidelines have been established to help students and staff use the network appropriately. If a student does not follow acceptable use policies, his/her privileges of using the network may be withdrawn.

### Internet

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here to make students, staff and parents aware of the responsibilities associated with Internet use. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources.

1) *Acceptable Use* The purpose of the NSFNET, which is the backbone network to the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and opportunity for collaborative work. The use of an Internet account must be in support of education and research consistent with the education objectives of the Tri-County Public School District. Use of other organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any US or state regulation is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is generally not acceptable. Use for Product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

2) *Privileges* The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in cancellation of those privileges. The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate and their decision is final. The administration, faculty and staff of the Tri-County Public School system may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.

3) *Network Etiquette* Persons using the Internet and other networks are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. They include, but are not limited to:

- a) Be polite. Do not get abusive in messages to others.
- b) Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- c) Do not reveal your personal address or phone numbers to others on the network.
- d) Note that electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to authorities.



# Acceptable Use Agreement

## Tri-County Public Schools

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Your child has requested access to the Tri-County Public Schools computer network. This access includes connections to computers through the Internet, which would connect your child with educational resources all over the world.

In order to provide access to your child the school district requires an "Acceptable Use Agreement" be signed by each student and if the student is under age 18, by parent or guardian.

Enclosed is the district's "Acceptable use Policy" which has been approved by the Board of Education. Please read the policy carefully and review it with your child. In accepting an account, your child accepts the responsibility of using the network in an appropriate manner. It is important that you understand his/her responsibilities as well. Your signature indicates that you have read and agreed to our "acceptable Use Policy".

### Student:

I understand and will abide by the terms and conditions set forth in the Tri-County Acceptable Use Policy. I further understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken as well as any appropriate legal action taken.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

### Parent or Guardian (*Signature required if student is under age 18*)

As a parent or legal guardian of the above named student I grant permission for my son/daughter to access computer networked services including electronic mail and Internet. I have read the Tri-County Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that this access is for educational purposes. I also recognize that it is impossible for Tri-County Public Schools to eliminate all controversial material and will not hold the Tri-County Public Schools responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent/Guardian (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature