



# Baltimore County Public Schools

## Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students

### Purpose of Telecommunications

Telecommunications extend the classroom beyond the school building by providing access to information resources on local, state, national, and international electronic networks such as the Internet. For students, telecommunications use in the Baltimore County Public Schools is for educational purposes, such as accessing curriculum-related information, sharing resources, and promoting innovation in learning. No personal use of any kind is permitted. Learning how to use this wealth of information and how to communicate electronically are information literacy skills which support student achievement and success in the 21st century.

### Information Available

- Government publications and databases
- Museums and multimedia collections
- Maps and other geographic resources
- Encyclopedias and dictionaries
- Magazines and newspapers
- Library catalogs and community directories
- Homework and assignments
- Virtual reference services

### Telecommunications Safety

Precautions will be taken to attempt to ensure that the Internet is a safe learning environment. Students will be supervised while using the Internet and will be instructed in the appropriate and safe use, selection, and evaluation of information. Also, software which attempts to block access to objectionable material will be accessible on computer networks used by students as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act.

### Terms and Conditions

#### Students shall:

- ✓ Use telecommunications for educational purposes only.
- ✓ Communicate with others in a courteous and respectful manner.
- ✓ Maintain the privacy of personal name, address, phone number, password(s), and respect the same privacy of others.
- ✓ Use only telecommunication accounts and passwords provided by the school.
- ✓ Report any incident of harassment to the supervising employee.
- ✓ Agree to the review of communications, data, and files by the Baltimore County Public Schools.
- ✓ Comply with copyright laws and intellectual property rights of others.
- ✓ Report any violation of this Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy to the supervising employee.

#### Students shall not:

- X Knowingly enter unauthorized computer networks or software to tamper or destroy data.
- X Bypass the school system's filtering server.
- X Access or distribute abusive, harassing libelous, obscene, offensive, profane, pornographic, threatening, sexually explicit, or illegal material.
- X Install personal software on computers.
- X Use telecommunications for commercial, purchasing, or illegal purposes.
- X Use telecommunications in any other manner that would violate School Board disciplinary policies.

### Disclaimer

The accuracy and quality of the information cannot be guaranteed. No warranties for telecommunications access are expressed or implied; BCPS will not be responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable due to technical or other difficulties.

### Penalties

Violations of the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy may be a violation of law, civil regulations, or Board Policies 5550, 5570, or 5660. Suspension of telecommunications privileges, school disciplinary action, and/or legal action may result from infringement of this policy.

**Dear Parent/Guardian:**

We are requesting consent for your child to use telecommunications in school. This policy is intended to inform you and your child about the *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy*, as well as document your reply. Please read the information on the reverse side before signing this document. We encourage you to discuss with your child all of the information, especially the terms and conditions for acceptable and safe use and the penalties for misuse of telecommunications.

Please read, sign, and return this document to the school. Consent is required before your child will be permitted to use telecommunications in school.

**Student User Agreement**

**Must be signed by all students.**

I hereby agree to abide by the Baltimore County Public Schools Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy. I further understand that any violation of the policy may be a violation of law, civil regulations, or Board of Education Policy 5550 - Disruptive Behavior, 5570 - Student Sexual Harassment, or 5600 - Students' Rights and Responsibilities. Should I violate the policy, my access privileges may be suspended, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may result.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent/Guardian Reply (Check only one .)**

**Must be completed if your child is under 18 years of age.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the Baltimore County Public Schools *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy*. As the parent/guardian of the student signing above, **I grant consent for my child to have supervised access to telecommunications.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the Baltimore County Public Schools *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy*. **I have decided that my child will not participate in the use of the telecommunications.** My child will complete school assignments using other information resources.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Questions regarding the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy should be directed to the Deputy Superintendent, Baltimore County Public Schools