



# 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 materials will be accessible on computer networks used by students as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act.

### Disclaimer

The accuracy and quality of the information located on telecommunications networks 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 difficulties.

**BEBCO 9660000781D 25/08**

### Terms and Conditions

#### Students shall:

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

#### Students shall not:

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

### Penalties

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

# Student Handbook and Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy Acknowledgment Form

This form must be signed and dated by the student and his/her parent/guardian after reviewing the Student Handbook. The student must return the completed form to the school.

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name (PLEASE PRINT)      First Name (PLEASE PRINT)      Grade

As the student, I have received a copy of the Baltimore County Public Schools Student Handbook. The handbook was explained, and I was given the opportunity to ask questions. I read and understand the disciplinary code listed in the book and the consequences for all offenses. Additionally, I understand the *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students*. I was informed that I could meet individually with an assistant principal to discuss the handbook in more detail.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

As the parent/guardian, I have received and reviewed the *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students*. I have discussed and reviewed the *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students* with my child. I understand that I must **agree to** or **opt out** of the following telecommunications conditions:

Please indicate your choices by making a check mark on the line provided below for each of the three conditions.

- Agree to   Opt Out    1. My child can be photographed, videotaped, and/or audiotaped during school-sponsored activities and/or learning experiences;
- Agree to   Opt Out    2. My child's full name and/or likeness can be used in electronic format including but not limited to video productions, Web sites, pod casts, photographs, The Educational Channel broadcasts, as well as commercial news broadcast media;
- Agree to   Opt Out    3. My child's intellectual property can be used, inclusive of but not limited to artwork, essay, or poem, in electronic format including but not limited to video productions, Web sites, The Educational Channel broadcasts, as well as commercial news broadcast media.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date