



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.

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 [name,] address, phone number, password(s), and respect the same privacy of others.
- ✓ Use only telecommunications accounts and passwords provided by the [school] 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 [any] 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 [personal] 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.

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 [or other] difficulties.

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Penalties

Violations of the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy may be violation of law, civil regulations, or Board Policies [5550, 5570, or 5560]. 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.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---|
| <u>Agree to</u> | <u>Opt Out</u> | 1. My child can be photographed, videotaped, and/or audiotaped during school-sponsored activities and/or learning experiences; |
| <u>Agree to</u> | <u>Opt Out</u> | 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; |
| <u>Agree to</u> | <u>Opt Out</u> | 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

[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]