

**ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**  
**Guidelines for Educational Internet Use**  
**Tazewell County Public Schools**

Tazewell County Public Schools offers Internet access as part of its instructional program. The sole purpose of this Internet access is to support education and research by providing students and teachers with access to unique resources and an opportunity for collaborative work. All uses of Tazewell County Public Schools' Internet access (like all other uses of Tazewell County Public Schools' computer facilities) must be in support of and consistent with these educational objectives. All students who use Tazewell County Public Schools' Internet access are expected to read these Guidelines and to take part in a discussion of the Guidelines with a teacher. Adherence to the Guidelines is a continuing condition for a student's privilege of Internet access.

**THE INTERNET**

The Internet is a vast, global network, linking computers at universities, schools, laboratories, and other sites. Through the Internet, one can communicate with people all over the world through discussion forums and electronic mail. In addition, many educationally valuable files may be accessed through the Internet. Because of its enormous size and resources, the Internet's educational potential is boundless. There is also potential for access to materials unacceptable for student use. Some material accessible on the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. These Guidelines are intended to help ensure that students and teachers use this valuable resource in a safe and appropriate manner. The benefit to students from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceeds any disadvantages.

**THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT**

All student use of the Internet is to be conducted under faculty supervision. Nevertheless, faculty members cannot be expected to monitor student use at every moment. Each student is expected to take individual responsibility for his or her appropriate use of the Internet.

Students are expected to follow procedures and guidelines that are issued in order to ensure the security and the efficient use of the Internet system.

Students are expected to learn and to abide by generally accepted rules of Internet network etiquette, as well as rules of school decorum. These include courtesy, politeness, and the avoidance of vulgar language.

**THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT**

Parents and guardians are responsible for reading and discussing with their children the acceptable and unacceptable uses of the Internet as described in these Guidelines.

**THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EDUCATOR**

Educators are responsible for explaining the Guidelines for Student Internet Use, for monitoring student activity while on the Internet, and for taking reasonable precautions to prevent students from accessing inappropriate sites.

### **THE PRIVILEGE OF INTERNET ACCESS**

Internet access through Tazewell County Public Schools is a privilege, not a right. A student's access may be canceled by school officials if this privilege is abused. Unacceptable conduct while using Tazewell County Public Schools' Internet access will also be subject to disciplinary action, in conformity with the Tazewell County Public Schools' Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline (which is published in school handbooks / calendars) and the disciplinary policies of individual schools. The school administration will determine what constitutes unacceptable use.

### **ADMINISTRATORS' ACCESS TO FILES**

Students and teachers should not assume that their use of Tazewell County Public Schools' Internet access will be private. All files and records may be examined by administrators for educational and administrative purposes, ensuring that these Internet Guidelines are being followed. A list of visited sites as well as times will be monitored by the system administrator. Administrators will cooperate with law enforcement authorities by providing access to Internet e-mail, files, and records as necessary.

### **THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF THE STUDENT**

The Internet is accessible to the public. Unfortunately, this includes people who may want to communicate with students for inappropriate purposes or under false pretenses. Tazewell County Public Schools cannot monitor the Internet for such unacceptable uses. Therefore, students must be cautious and prudent about supplying personal information. In particular, students should never arrange a personal meeting with a person whom they meet on-line.

Students should promptly inform their teacher or school administrator of any on-line communication that is threatening, harassing or otherwise unacceptable.

### **UNACCEPTABLE USES**

Unacceptable uses of the Tazewell County Public Schools' Internet access include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Posting private or personal information about another person
2. Attempting to log in through another person's account or to access another person's files; sharing a password or account with another person.
3. Transmitting obscene or pornographic material or intentionally visiting sites featuring such material
4. Posting chain letters or engaging in 'spamming' (Spamming means sending a large number of annoying or unnecessary messages to one or more people.)

5. Participating in any communication that facilitates the illegal sale of drugs or alcohol; that facilitates criminal gang activity; that threatens, intimidates, or harasses any other person, or that violates any laws, or facilitates any illegal activity
6. Plagiarizing material (Plagiarism means taking material or ideas created by others and presenting it as if it were one's own. Plagiarism is an illegal act and can be subject to prosecution.)
7. Infringing copyrights (Copyright infringement occurs when a person inappropriately reproduces or transmits material that is protected by copyright. For example, most software is protected by copyright and may not be copied without the permission of the copyright owner.)
8. Participating in commercial activities that are not directly related to the educational purposes of Tazewell County Public Schools
9. Hacking or cracking a computer system. (Hacking, or cracking, occurs when a person gains access to a computer without permission.)

#### **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Tazewell County Public Schools disclaims all liability for the content of material to which a student may have access on the Internet and for any damages suffered as a result of the student's Internet use. Tazewell County Public Schools makes no guarantee that the functions or services provided by its Internet access will be error-free or without defect. Tazewell County Public Schools will not be responsible for any damage students may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. It will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained from or stored on the system. Tazewell County Public Schools will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system. Tazewell County Public Schools will not be responsible for any actions or obligations of a student while accessing the Internet outside the public school system for any purpose.

#### **CHANGES TO THE GUIDELINES**

Tazewell County Public Schools reserves the right to change these Guidelines at any time.

