ACCEPTABLE USE of TECHNOLOGY
AND INTERNET SAFETY for STUDENTS

I. Computers and other electronic devices will be used by students and staff to further the educational goals and objectives of the Talbot County Public Schools. Through electronic information and communication tools, an unprecedented, worldwide, diverse array of resources is available in schools and classrooms to support and enrich the curriculum. Knowing how to access this wealth of information and how to communicate electronically are fundamental skills for our students. Using resources on computer networks can be a great motivation for students, and their use encourages independent and critical thinking.

II. Computer use in Talbot County Public Schools is for educational purposes, such as accessing curriculum-related information, sharing resources, and promoting innovative approaches to learning.   Such use may extend beyond the school building by providing access to information resources on local, state, national, and international electronic networks. All network access will be through TCPS accounts only. With global access to information, comes the availability of material that may not be of educational value. TPCS will provide filtering in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Students will receive instruction on the *Acceptable Use of technology and Internet Safety Policy, it's accompanying administrative regulations,* and the care and safe handling of computer equipment.

III. The student is responsible for using the school account provided in an ethical, responsible, and legal manner.   The use of computer resources is a revocable privilege. Failure to abide by this policy may render the student ineligible to use the school's computing facilities and may bring additional disciplinary action.   In addition, any illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate agencies.

IV. TCPS will not guarantee the availability of access to the Internet and will not be responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable due to technical or other difficulties. All files and computers are subject to inspection without prior notice and staff will conduct random monitoring of computers.. All equipment, software, downloads or created materials are the property of the school system, with no expectation of ownership or privacy by the user. Students are responsible for the safe and secure handling of equipment provided to them. Damaged and lost equipment will be the responsibility of the student.

V. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to develop appropriate procedures for implementing this policy, to review and evaluate its effect on student achievement and instruction, and to develop appropriate discipline procedures.

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