

TWIN RIVERS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION AREA

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY ON SCHOOL CORPORATION – PROVIDED ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND NETWORKS

Freedom of expression is an unalienable human right and the foundation of self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the right to freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. Such rights extend to minors as well as adults. Schools facilitate the exercise of these rights by providing access to information regardless of format or technology. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship.

In making decisions regarding student access to the Internet, Twin Rivers Career & Technical Education Area considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources while exchanging messages with people around the world. Twin Rivers Career & Technical Education Area expects that faculty will blend thoughtful use of the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in its use. As much as possible, access from school to Internet resources should be structured in ways that point students to those sources that have been evaluated prior to use. While students will be able to move beyond those resources to others that have not been reviewed by staff, they shall be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to learning objectives.

Outside of school, families bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies, and other possibly offensive media.

Students utilizing school-provided Internet access must first have the permission of and must be supervised by Twin Rivers Career & Technical Education Area professional staff. Students utilizing school-provided Internet access are responsible for good behavior on-line just as they are in a classroom or other area of the school. The same general rules for behavior and communications apply.

The purpose of school-provided Internet access is to facilitate communications in support of research and education. To remain eligible as users, students' use must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of Twin Rivers Career & Technical Education Area. **Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.**

Users should not expect that files stored on school-based computers will always be private. Electronic messages and files stored on school-based computers may be treated like school lockers. Administrators and faculty may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and insure that users are acting responsibly.

The following uses of school-provided Internet access are not permitted:

- a. To access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material;
- b. To transmit obscene, abusive, or sexually explicit language;
- c. To transmit any information of a sexist, racist, discriminatory, slanderous or libelous nature;
- d. To violate any local, state, or federal statute;
- e. To vandalize, damage or disable the property of another individual or organization;
- f. To access another individual's materials, information, or files without permission; and
- g. To violate copyright or otherwise use the intellectual property of another individual or organization without permission.

Any violation of School Corporation policy may result in loss of school-provided access to the internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined at the building level in keeping with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language of behavior. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Twin Rivers Career & Technical Education Area makes no warranties of any kind, neither expressed nor implied, for the Internet access it is providing. The school corporation will not be responsible for any damage users suffer, including, but not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays or interruptions in service. The school corporation will not be responsible for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information gathered through school-provided Internet access. The school corporation will not be responsible for personal property used to access school corporation computers or networks or for school corporation-provided Internet access to the Internet.

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Employee Acknowledgement Form

This is to certify that I have been given a copy of the acceptable use policy on school corporation provided access to electronic information, services and networks from the Twin Rivers Vocational Area's Director.

I also certify that I understand the provision of this policy and have attended the required acceptable use policy program.

Employee Signature

Date