

2020-2021

## TIOGA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### ACCEPTABLE INTERNET GUIDELINES

Internet use is now available to students and teachers in the Tioga Independent School District (TISD). These services are a vital asset and include worldwide access to vast, diverse, and unique resources. Our goal in providing these resources is to promote educational excellence in TISD schools by facilitation resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Teachers and students have access to:

- Teacher assisted electronic mail (e-mail) including communication with people all over the world
- Up-to-the-minute news and current events.
- Discussion groups on thousands of topics
- University library catalogs, the Library of Congress, Educational resources (ERIC), and museums including Internet
- On-line reference
- And hundreds of other resources

TISD has established user guidelines for all members of the district: students, teachers, staff, and administrators. However, unacceptable material or communication may be available on a global network. It is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover inappropriate resources. The TISD believes that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may discover material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the district. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible of setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.

The TISD supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of the regional education service center and state networks. The smooth operation of the Internet use relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who may adhere to strict guidelines. The terms and conditions listed below are provided so that users are unaware of the privileges and the responsibilities related to Internet use. Efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the Internet resources is expected. If a user violates any of the provisions of Internet use, stated here or in the TISD CODE OF CONDUCT, the user may be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, cancellation of Internet access. Signatures on the attached contract are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**Acceptable Use-** The purpose of the TISD Internet access is to support research and education in the TISD and among other academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity of collaborative work. The use of an account must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the TISD. Use of other organizations' computing resources must comply with the rules for that network. TISD does not support the use of district owned equipment for accessing commercial on-line services through non-TISD terms and conditions. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state law is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to any copyright material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use of product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited. Illegal activities are strongly prohibited.

**Privileges-** The use of TISD Internet access is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of that privilege. A TISD faculty member pertaining to the proper use of the Internet will instruct each student who has access to the district network. Based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the system administrators may close an account at any time. The administration, faculty, and staff of TISD may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.

**Netiquette-** The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These guidelines include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not reveal personal addresses or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
- Do include your school & signature at the bottom of e-mail messages. Your signature footer should include your name, position, school, and Internet address.
- Files and electronic mail are subject to monitoring. System administrations have access to all files including mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- Do not use the system in such a way that would disrupt the use of the system by other users (e.g. uploading and/or downloading huge files using prime time; sending mass e-mail messages; annoying or other users electronically).
- All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be the private property subject to copyright regulations.

**Reliability-** TISD offers no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services provided. The TISD will not be responsible for damages suffered, such as loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by the district's or user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the TISD Internet is at user's own risk. The TISD has no claim for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through these services.

**Security**-Security of any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users.

- If a user identifies or has knowledge of a security problem on the system, the user must notify a system administrator.
- The security problem should not be shown or demonstrated to other users.
- Accounts are not transferable. Do not give user passwords to any other individual.
- Attempts to log into the system as any other user will result in cancellation of user privileges.
- Attempts by an individual to log into the TISD Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of the user privileges and disciplinary action.
- Any user identified as a security risk or having a history or problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the TISD Internet use.
- Pictures of groups of students are permitted; however, no information providing individual identification should be included.

**Vandalism**-Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment, data of another user, the TISD system, or other systems that are connected to the TISD services. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

**Updating User Information**- TISD will require new registration and account information on an annual basis from users to continue the services. Users must notify the TISD Of any changes in account information. Currently, there are no user fees for these services.

**Exception of Terms and Conditions**-All terms and conditions as stated in this document are applicable to the TISD. The terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. Terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

**Account Eligibility**-Any Tioga Independent School District student or staff member may apply for Internet access by completing the appropriate CONTRACT AGREEMENT AND APPLICATION FOR TISD INTERNET ACCESS.

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**STUDENT CONTRACT AND APPLICATION FOR TISD INTERNET ACCESS**

Directions: After reading the TISD Acceptable Use Guidelines (attached), please read and complete the appropriate portions of the following contract. The signature of a parent or guardian is required. Return completed contract page to the school. Any questions should be addressed to your teacher.

STUDENT CONTRACT:

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

***Student:*** I have read the TISD Acceptable Use Guidelines. I understand and will abide by the stated Terms and Conditions for Internet use. I further understand that violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Student Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Parent or Guardian-*** a parent or guardian must read and sign this agreement before Internet access is allowed.

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Terms and Conditions of the Internet Acceptable Use Guidelines. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. I also recognize the restriction to access of all controversial materials is not possible. I will not hold the district responsible for materials acquired on the Internet. I hereby give my permission for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_