

**Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
Technology Acceptable Use and Responsibility Policy Agreement Regulation**

Please read the following carefully before signing this document. This is a legally binding agreement and must be signed before you will be given access to any Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools' technology resource. This agreement is in compliance with state and national telecommunication regulations.

PURPOSE

To provide requirements and assign responsibilities which are consistent with Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools' (WJCPS) educational objectives and security requirements for the appropriate use of Internet resources, e-mail, network services, and information systems. This regulation applies to all technology-related systems used by WJCPS staff, teachers, students, contractors, student-teachers, volunteers, and interns.

Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools supports instruction through the use of educational and administrative computers, school-licensed software and other media, as well as Internet resources, e-mail, network services, and information systems. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual people. With access to computers and people all over the world comes the availability of some material that may not be considered to be of educational value within the context of the school setting. WJCPS has taken precautions to restrict access to materials deemed controversial, objectionable, or harmful to juveniles. (Source: Code of Virginia, Section 18.2-372, 18.2-374.1:1, 18.2-390) Students, teachers, support staff, parents, School Board members and others with Internet access accounts have limited access to: (1) electronic mail (e-mail) communication; (2) information and news from a variety of sources and research institutions; (3) public domains; (4) discussion groups on a wide variety of educational topics; (5) access to many university libraries, the Library of Congress, online databases and more. Despite efforts to restrict access to content having an educational value within the context of WJCPS, no system is infallible and, therefore, the school system cannot guarantee that account users cannot access inappropriate materials.

Following are regulations provided to establish the responsibilities of anyone using WJCPS'es computers, media, computer networks and/or Internet access. Network accounts are a privilege. If a user violates any of these provisions, his or her access may be terminated and any future access could be denied.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- I. ACCEPTABLE USE:** The purpose of the WJC Public Schools' computer network(s) is to support research and instruction, or the business of conducting education, by providing access to unique resources and opportunities for collaborative work. The use of networked resources must be in support of education and research, or the business of conducting education, consistent with the educational objectives of the WJC Public School system. Additionally, use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U. S. or state law or state agency provisions is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for any

non-educational purpose (as determined by WJC Public Schools administration) or commercial activity by any individual or organization, regardless of for-profit or not-for-profit status, is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is strictly prohibited.

- II. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:** WJCPS computers, systems, and network resources are the property of the school division. They may not be altered in any way, unless authorized by school-based technology specialists, enterprise network administrators, or the Director of Technology, or his/her designee. Any work prepared on or with the assistance of WJCPS information systems or network resources is the property of WJC Public Schools. It cannot be licensed or sold for the benefit of any individual employee or user. Software instructions and license agreement terms must be strictly followed. Duplicating copyrighted software, without fully complying with license agreement terms, is a serious federal offense and will not be tolerated. Having a copy of a piece of software does not constitute authorization for modifications or additional copies the software to be made; most licenses prohibit such uses. Installing unlicensed software, and personal-owned software not licensed to WJCPS, is not permitted. Users downloading software, music, and data files which are protected by trademark and copyright laws must comply with the provisions of these laws (Code of Virginia, Section 59.1-505.2.)
- III. PRIVILEGES:** The use of network resources is a PRIVILEGE, not a right; therefore, inappropriate use may result in a suspension or termination of those privileges. Each student who receives access by signing the agreement will be part of a discussion with a WJC Public Schools faculty member pertaining to the proper use of the network. Each adult who receives access will abide by these guidelines for appropriate use. WJC Public Schools administration and the system administrator(s) will deem what is inappropriate use. The decision of the administration or the system administrator(s) is final. The system administrator(s) may close an account at any time. Based on the recommendation of teachers and staff, the administration of WJC Public Schools may request that the system administrator deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.
- IV. TECHNOLOGY USE ETIQUETTE:** The use of any WJC Public Schools network resource requires that you abide by accepted rules of network etiquette, which include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. **BE POLITE.** Do not send abusive, objectionable, or offensive messages to anyone.
 2. **APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE.** In all messages, do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
 3. **APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES.** Anything pertaining to illegal activities is strictly forbidden. Activities relating to, or in support of, illegal activities will be reported to appropriate authorities (Code of Virginia, Section 18.2-60). Any technology-related activity not directly related to the educational mission of WJC Public Schools requires prior approval from the Director of Technology or his/her designee.
 4. **PERSONAL USE.** As a courtesy, WJC Public Schools allows minimum personal use

of systems resources, including e-mail and Internet access. Users must understand that this minimum personal use must be conducted in full compliance with the provisions of this regulation, and understand that it cannot compete with legitimate schools needs for computer time and bandwidth. Users should also understand that no material on systems resources is private and may be reviewed to assure proper use and compliance with WJCC policies and regulations and the law.

5. **STANDARD NETWORK CONFIGURATION.** As a standard network configuration in the WJCPS computing environment real-time messaging, online chat, and peer-to-peer networking and Internet personal email accounts are “shutdown” because of their high bandwidth demand and susceptibility to transmit worms or viruses. However, a teacher requiring temporary access to these services for classroom activity may request such services to be opened. Send the request via email to the Director of Technology.

V. PROTOCOLS:

1. **PRIVACY.** Do not reveal any personal information. All communications and information accessible via the network is property of WJCPS and should be assumed public property. Electronic mail is not private. Systems Administrators have access to all e-mail. Messages relating to, or in support of, illegal activities will be reported to appropriate authorities.
2. **CONNECTIVITY.** Do not use the network in such a way that would limit or disrupt the use of the network by others.
3. **SERVICES.** WJC Public Schools will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via networks is at user’s risk. WJC Public Schools specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its network services.
4. **SECURITY.** Security on any computer system is a high priority. If users can identify a security problem on any of the networks, they must notify a system administrator either in person or via the network as soon as possible. Users must not demonstrate the problem to other users. Use of network service accounts provided by WJC Public Schools is not transferable or assignable. Any users who knowingly allow another to use the account assigned to them will immediately lose their access privileges and may be subject to further legal action. Attempts to fraudulently log in on any network systems as a system administrator or another user will result in immediate termination of user privileges and may be subject to further legal action.
5. **VANDALISM AND ELECTRONIC MISCHIEF.** Vandalism will result in termination of privileges. This includes, but is not limited to, electronic mischief, the uploading or creation of computer viruses, attempts to tamper with any programs, applications, files, etc.

6. UPDATES. WJC Public Schools may occasionally require new registration and account information from users to continue providing services. Users must notify the system administrator(s) of any changes in account information.

VI. CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE USE:

1. Upon review of technology administration, access privileges may be terminated for any violation of this policy.
2. Violations deemed to be misdemeanor or felony offenses will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
3. All WJC school policies will continue to be in effect in addition to any and all specific consequences stated herein.

All Terms and Conditions as stated in this document are applicable to any WJC Public Schools' technology resource. These Terms and Conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These Terms and Conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Virginia, United States of America.

The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicate(s) the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance. Any user who violates the terms of this policy will immediately lose his/her access privileges and may be subject to a hearing before the School Board and may be subject to further disciplinary action and/or further legal action.

**Adopted: February 20, 1996
Reviewed: June 5, 2001
Revised: May 3, 2005**



**WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

**Technology Acceptable Use And Responsibility Policy Agreement Regulation Signature
Page for Staff, Teachers, Contractors, Student-teachers, Volunteers, and Interns.**

I (print name) _____ understand and will abide by the Terms and Conditions of the WJC Technology Acceptable Use and Responsibility Policy Agreement Regulation for the privilege of accessing network resources on any WJC computer. I further understand that any violation of the above regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and administrative disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

**WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY CO. PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

**Technology Acceptable Use And Responsibility Agreement Signature Page
for Parent and Student**

I, the parent or guardian of _____ (student's name), the minor student who has signed, along with me, this acceptable use policy, understand that my son or daughter must adhere to the terms of this policy. I understand that access to the WJCPS technology resources is designed for educational purposes but will also allow my son or daughter access to external computer databases, networks, etc. that are not controlled by WJCPS. I also understand that some materials available through these external sources may be inappropriate and objectionable; however, I acknowledge that it is impossible for WJCPS to screen or review all the materials available through these sources. I accept responsibility to set and convey standards for appropriate and acceptable use to my son or daughter prior to use of the WJCPS technology, network, or any other electronic media or communications associated with WJCPS.

Parent or Guardian Name (please print) _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ *Date:* ____/____/____

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date: ____/____/____