

Student Use of Technology

<p>Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Center/Program Student Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet Access</p>
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Student and parent must sign the back page and return to Tri-Valley ROP teacher.

Preamble

Internet access is now available to students, teachers and administrators in the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Center/Program ("District"). The District believes that computers and the Internet offer vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing these services to students and teachers is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. This agreement is intended to define appropriate use of technology by students of the District. Nothing in this agreement shall preempt the applicability of the school's existing code of conduct which also applies to Internet and e-mail use, including, but not limited to, policies prohibiting sexual harassment and hate speech. Families bear responsibility for the same guidance that they must exercise with other information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other media that may also allow students to access potentially offensive materials.

Definitions

"Internet" - An international network of interconnected computers. It can also mean one or more of the following on-line or telecommunications services: World Wide Web, e-mail, chat rooms, bulletin boards, newsgroups.

"E-mail" - Allows an individual with an E-mail address/account to send an electronic message containing text or images to another individual or group of individuals with E-mail addresses/accounts.

"Computer Network" - A system of individual computers that are linked together in order to share information which otherwise would be unavailable.

"Vandalism" - Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet, or any component of the school computer network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

"Bulletin Boards and Newsgroups" - Both are places that people can place messages that others can read at convenient times. People will reply to messages over a period of time.

"Chat Rooms" - These are forums where several people can post messages at the same time. People make statements or ask questions to which others respond within seconds. They can carry out conversations which others can read. Some chat rooms are moderated by a person that tries to keep people from engaging in inappropriate conversations.

"Instant Messaging" ("IM") - Instant Messaging, also known as IM's, is used much like Chat Rooms. However, IM's allow two or more people to send instant messages to one another via the internet privately. Although others cannot access an existing IM conversation, IM users are allowed to send instant messages to unsuspecting Internet users. For example, a student while researching on the internet, could find that a pop-up message box has appeared on his or her screen from another user. The message could be from a known sender or someone unknown. Some service providers, such as AOL, allow IM users access to internet User Profile information such as the age and gender of another user.

Student Use of Technology

Tri-Valley ROP Acceptable Use Agreement (continued)

Additionally, an IM user can receive an automatic prompt providing notice that a certain internet user has signed onto their own internet account allowing an IM to be sent to them. Some Service Providers allow the user to control who can send an incoming instant message. Tri-Valley ROP will not allow the use of IM's or instant messages.

Scope of Agreement

This agreement shall apply to all students who access the internet, send/receive E-mail, or otherwise use the school computer network via equipment and access lines, or who otherwise obtain access privileges through association with this school. The use of the school computer network is a privilege and not a right. Inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of those privileges and/or possible discipline. Moreover, the District will conduct periodic and ongoing monitoring of all internet use to assure educationally appropriate use and use that is not inconsistent with state and federal prohibitions on discrimination, obscenity, harassment, defamation, violence or other violations. There is, thus, no expectation of privacy in information obtained, or communication sent through, the District's systems.

In the event that the District finds it necessary to limit the amount of student use, access may be limited to location, time, and duration.

Acceptable Uses

All use of the school computer network, specifically access to the Internet, E-mail, or other associated use, must be in support of education and research which is consistent with the guidelines and policies set forth by Tri-Valley ROP. On a periodic basis, the District shall re-evaluate and determine whether specific uses of the school computer network are consistent with the acceptable use practice.

Unacceptable Uses

The system administrators are authorized to make a final determination as to whether a use is appropriate. Furthermore, the system administrators may close a student account, or terminate a student's access to the District's computer system, at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of the School District may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user account(s). Transmission (sending, forwarding, posting, downloading) over the school computer network of any material in violation of any U.S. or California regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Any use of the network for commercial or for-profit purposes is prohibited.
2. Any use of the network for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
3. Material that is hostile based on gender, race or ethnicity, violent, demeaning, discriminatory, harassing, obscene, sexually explicit, pornographic, profane or threatening, including messages, jokes, and images, may not be transmitted over the school computer network system or downloaded from the Internet. All messages must comply with all school rules. This includes, for example, downloading of erotic, defamatory or derogatory materials.

Student Use of Technology

Tri-Valley ROP Acceptable Use Agreement (continued)

4. Accessing or transmitting copyrighted or trademarked information in a way that violates the copyright or trademark of the owner is prohibited. All students are cautioned that copying material from an Internet source or re-transmitting it thereafter might be considered making a copy of it under the copyright laws, unless permission is given by the owner to make copies; therefore, if the material is copyrighted, such copying and transmission may constitute infringement. All students should be made sensitive to this issue by their teachers, and if there is any doubt as to whether or not any material or information can be copied or re-transmitted, the student must consult his or her teacher in advance.
5. Any use of electronic chat rooms, bulletin boards, or instant messaging is prohibited unless part of a class project supervised by a credentialed employee.
6. Student Publication of Web pages is permitted but must conform to existing policies for school publications. All Web sites must conform to educational appropriateness and not violate privacy or other rights of third parties. Where photographs of any school student or school employee have been approved for use on any school Web page, all names shall be omitted. Written consent or prior notification with an offer to decline identification is required prior to the use of a photograph or likeness of any employee or student on a school Web site or page. The written consent shall be signed by the employee, student or parent/guardian of any student under the age of 18. Where a name is to be used (i.e. Board recognition, honors, and scholarships) prior permission will be granted in writing.
7. Revealing personal information of either students or employees over the Internet including, but not limited to, personal contact information in the form of names, home/school/work addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, credit card numbers or passwords is prohibited.
8. Any activity that is harmful to the School's computers, computer systems, or networks including, but not limited to, creating or propagating computer viruses, overloading the school's computer network, engaging in "spamming" (intentionally sending an unnecessary or annoying message to a large number of people), engaging in "hacking" (intentionally breaking into unauthorized areas of computer networks), is prohibited.

Rules for Use of Email and Internet (as per AR 6163.4)

1. The student in whose name an on-line services account is issued is responsible for its proper use at all times. Users shall keep personal account numbers, home addresses and telephone numbers private. They shall use the system only under their own account number.

Student Use of Technology

Tri-Valley ROP Acceptable Use Agreement (continued)

2. The district's system shall be used only for purposes related to education. Commercial, political and/or personal use unrelated to an educational purpose is strictly prohibited.
3. The district reserves the right to monitor any on-line communications for improper use. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user's account, may be monitored or read by district officials.
4. The use of the district's system is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use shall result in a cancellation of those privileges.
5. Students are prohibited from accessing, posting, submitting, publishing or displaying harmful matter or material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion or political beliefs.

Harmful matter includes matter, taken as a whole, which to the average person, applying contemporary statewide standards, appeals to the prurient interest and is matter which depicts or describes in a patently offensive way sexual conduct and
6. Users shall not use the system to encourage the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, nor shall they promote unethical practices or any activity prohibited by law or district policy
7. Copyrighted material may not be placed on the system without the author's permission. Users may download copyrighted material for their own use only.
8. Vandalism will result in the cancellation of user privileges. Vandalism includes the intentional uploading, downloading or creating computer viruses and/or any malicious attempt to harm or destroy district equipment or materials or the data of any other user.
9. Users shall not read other users' mail or files; they shall not attempt to interfere with other users' ability to send or receive electronic mail, nor shall they attempt to delete, copy, modify or forge other users' mail.
10. Users shall report any security problem or misuse of the services to the teacher or principal.

Waiver of Warranties

Tri-Valley ROP makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages which might arise from an individual's use of the school computer system. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, nondeliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions, regardless of the cause thereof. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Student Use of Technology

Tri-Valley ROP Acceptable Use Agreement (continued)

Violations/Sanctions

These guidelines are provided so that students are aware of their responsibilities regarding the school computer network/Internet. Security on the school computer network is a high priority, especially because the system involves many users. If a student identifies a security problem on the school computer network, he or she must immediately notify the teacher, principal of the school, or Director of Technology.

Violations of this agreement should be reported to the Director of Technology. If a student violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could be denied. Any student who attempts to log on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any student who vandalizes the school computer system will have his or her user privilege canceled. Any student who is identified as a security risk or as having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied user privileges. Nothing in this agreement shall limit the applicability of the school's general student disciplinary code for violations.

Any student found to have violated any section of this agreement will, in addition to losing their account privilege, face disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and expulsion as permitted Education Code 48900.

Notice On Filters To All Users And Disclaimer

Internet filters are used at Tri-Valley ROP pursuant to this agreement. However, the district shall be held harmless, and will not assume any liability, for the content of any public/private online Web site, information, link and or resource, and assumes no responsibility for any violation of the district's usage agreement by any of its users.

Modification

The law relating to the Internet and its use by schools and students is evolving rapidly. Consequently, the district reserves the right to update or modify this agreement at any time.

Student and parent must sign the reverse side and return to Tri-Valley ROP teacher.

Student Use of Technology

Tri-Valley ROP Acceptable Use Agreement (continued)

STUDENT/PARENT SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the above Students' Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet Access. I further understand that any violation of the regulations pursuant to this agreement and pursuant to California Education Code Section 51870.5 is a basis for disciplinary action and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, I understand that my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and appropriate legal action may be instigated.

 Student's Name (please PRINT)

 TVROCP Teacher's Name

 Student's Signature

 Date

(If a student is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.)

As a parent or guardian of this student, I have read and understand this Students' Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet Access. I understand that access is designated for educational purposes exclusively. Although Tri-Valley ROP has taken the required legal precautions to eliminate controversial material, I recognize that it is impossible for the district to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold the district or its employees, or agents, responsible for the materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility if and when my child's use of the Internet does not conform to educational purposes. I understand that my child's access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and appropriate legal action may be initiated if any provision of the above agreement pursuant to California Education Code Section 51870.5 is violated.

 Parent/Guardian's Signature

 Date

SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO TRI-VALLEY ROP TEACHER