



Allegany County Public Schools

Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students

Purpose of Telecommunications

Telecommunications use in the Allegany County Public Schools is for educational purposes, such as accessing curriculum-related information, sharing resources, and promoting innovation that enrich the curriculum and the instructional program (e.g. www.infusion.allconet.org). Telecommunications extend the classroom beyond the school building by providing access to information resources on local, state, national, and international electronic networks such as the Internet. Learning how to use the information and how to communicate electronically are literacy skills, which support student achievement and success.

Student Responsibilities

1. Students will use telecommunications in the Allegany County Public Schools for educational purposes only.
2. Students will access the Internet with software and hardware owned by the Allegany County Public Schools.
3. Students are responsible for using the telecommunications provided in an ethical, responsible, and legal manner.
4. Students shall not alter, destroy, or vandalize data, hardware or software.
5. Students will access only those network resources that have the approval of a teacher.
6. Students are responsible for their behavior, language, and actions on the Internet.
7. Students will comply with all provisions in the Allegany County Public Schools Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students (Policy File: JIK).
8. Use of telecommunications for commercial, gaming, purchasing, or illegal activities including but not limited to: Viewing, distributing, or importing (downloading) abusive, harassing, offensive, obscene, libelous, disruptive, pornographic, threatening, sexually explicit, or inflammatory language, pictures, or other material, knowingly spreading viruses violating copyright laws, using unauthorized software, impersonating another user on any computer or network in the Allegany County Public Schools is prohibited.
9. Students shall not use ACPS computers or networks for peer to peer file sharing or employ proxy avoidance technology.
10. Any harassment encountered on the Internet should be immediately reported to the supervising teacher / employee.
11. Students shall not install personal software or passwords on Allegany County Public Schools computers.
12. Students shall not use chat rooms and instant messaging services in Allegany County Public Schools for non-educational purposes.
13. Students shall not reveal personal information, name, home addresses, telephone numbers, passwords or other personal information on the Internet, and respect the same privacy for others.
14. Students shall not connect unauthorized devices (i.e., home computers, wireless access points, and other personal equipment) to the network.
15. Students will use the telecommunications network in such a way that use of the network by others is not disrupted.
16. Students will use the Internet in accordance with the policies and procedures developed by the Allegany County Public Schools.
17. Students shall not link third party web sites to the school web site.
18. Students with personal e-mail accounts shall not use Allegany County Public Schools telecommunication networks to access their accounts for non-educational purposes.

Telecommunications Safety

Precautions will be taken to ensure that the Internet is a safe learning environment. Students will be supervised while using the Internet and will be instructed in appropriate use, selection, and evaluation of information. Filtering software, which attempts to block access to objectionable material, is installed on computer networks used by students.

The use of the Internet by students is a privilege, not a right. Accounts are issued, inspected, and terminated at the sole discretion of the Board of Education of Allegany County.

Consequences of Unacceptable Use

Misuse of the Internet or a violation of these regulations may result in the student's privileges being denied, revoked, or suspended. Violations of the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy may be a violation of law, civil regulations, or Board Policies. Suspension of telecommunications privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action may result from infringement of this policy.

Student and Parent/Guardian please sign on the reverse side.

Any illegal activities will be reported to the proper law enforcement agency.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are requesting consent for your child to use telecommunications in school. This policy is intended to inform you and your child about the **Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy**, as well as to document your reply. Please read the information on the reverse side before signing this document. We encourage you to discuss with your child all of the information, especially the terms and conditions for acceptable and safe use, and the consequences of unacceptable use of telecommunications.

Please read, sign, and return this document indicating whether your child will be permitted to use telecommunications in school.

Student User Agreement

Must be signed by all students.

I hereby agree to abide by the Allegany County Public Schools **Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy**. I further understand that any violation of the policy may be a violation of law, civil regulations, or Board of Education Policies. Should I violate the policy, my access privileges may be suspended, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may result.

Student Full Name (Please print)

Date

Student Signature

School

Parent/Guardian Reply (Check only one)

Must be completed if your child is under 18 years of age.

_____ I have read and understand the Allegany County Public Schools *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy*. As the parent/guardian of the student signing above, I grant consent for my child to have supervised access to telecommunications.

_____ I have read and understand the Allegany County Public Schools *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy*. I have decided that my child **will not participate** in use of telecommunications. My child will complete school assignments using other information resources.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Questions regarding the *Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy* should be directed to the School Principal, Allegany County Public Schools