

## **NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOLS STUDENT COMPUTER USE AGREEMENT**

*Please read this document carefully before signing.*

The Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District will provide access to various computerized information resources through the District's Computer System (DCS). We are very pleased to bring this access to our district and believe it offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating sharing, innovation, and communication.

The DCS may include access to electronic mail, online services, and the Internet. It may also include the opportunity for some students to have independent access to the DCS from their home or other remote locations. One purpose of this policy is to provide notice to students, parents, and guardians that, unlike most traditional instructional or library media materials, the DCS will allow student access to external computer networks not controlled by the school district where it is impossible for the District to screen or review all of the available materials. Some of the available materials may be deemed unsuitable by parents or guardians for student use or access because it is of little educational value or may contain defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, racially offensive, illegal, or adult-oriented material.

We want to assure you that our Board of Education, Administration, and Staff do not condone the use of such materials and do not permit usage of such materials in the school environment. Every reasonable effort will be made to monitor the usage of the DCS, but despite the existence of guidelines, regulations, and monitoring it will not be possible to entirely prevent access to computerized information that is inappropriate for students.

Furthermore, students may have the ability to access such information from their home or other off-school premises. Parents and guardians of students must be willing to set and convey standards for appropriate and acceptable use to their children when using the DCS or any other electronic media or communications. The District respects the right of each family to decide whether or not to apply for independent computer access.

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Generally, the same standards of acceptable student conduct which apply to any school activity shall apply to the use of the DCS. Students who engage in unacceptable use will lose access to the DCS and may be subject to further discipline under the District's school conduct and discipline policy. In addition, some violations may constitute a criminal offense and the District reserves the right to pursue legal action against a student who willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damages or destroys property of the District. Further, the District may bring suit in civil court against the parents or guardians of any student who willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damages or destroys District property pursuant to Education Law §1709(36).

Student data files and other electronic storage areas will be treated like school lockers. This means that such areas shall be considered to be school district property subject to control and inspection. The System Administrator may access all such files and communications to insure system integrity and that users comply with the requirements of this policy.

**STUDENT USER TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. It is my responsibility to avoid abusive conduct inclusive of, but not limited to, the altering of system software, placing of unlawful information, computer viruses, or harmful programs on or through the system, in either public or private files or messages.
2. I am accountable for the use of my password. My password must not be revealed to anyone nor will I use others' passwords. I will be responsible for any problems which arise from the misuse of my file folder or my home directory.
3. I will not use the school's computer system to obtain, view, download, send, print, display or otherwise gain access to or transmit materials that are unlawful, obscene, pornographic, abusive or otherwise objectionable.
4. I will not use the DCS to harass, insult, or attack others.
5. I will use only authorized software on the DCS.
6. I will use all computer equipment for the purpose for which it is intended. I will not tamper with terminals, associated equipment, or otherwise disable the system.

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7. I will not change, copy, rename, delete, read, or otherwise access files or software that I did not create unless I have written permission from the System Administrator.
8. I will not use a computer for anything other than course related work without written permission from the instructor. This might include: Listservs, newsgroups, playing games, printing posters/banners, sending messages, doing work for other students.
9. I will not violate copyright laws or use the DCS for commercial purposes.
10. If I can identify a security problem on the DCS, I will immediately notify an instructor or the System Manager.

**NETWORK ETIQUETTE**

You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
- b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- c. Do not reveal your personal address or phone number or those of students or colleagues.
- d. Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized user for the designated purpose. No "chain mail" materials may be transmitted.
- e. Do not use the network in such a way that the use of the network by other users is disrupted.

The North Tonawanda City School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. North Tonawanda City School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

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Student use of the DCS is conditioned upon written agreement by the student and his/her parents or guardians that student use of the DCS will conform to the requirements of this policy and any regulations adopted to insure acceptable use of the DCS.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish regulations and procedures as necessary to implement the terms of this policy.

**AGREEMENT FOR STUDENT USE OF COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION  
RESOURCES**

In consideration of the privilege of using the North Tonawanda City School District's Computer System (DCS), I agree that I have been provided with a copy of the District's policy on the student use of computerized information resources and the regulations established in connection with that policy. I agree to adhere to the policy and the regulations and to any changes or additions adopted by the District. I also agree to adhere to related policies published in the Student Handbook.

I understand that failure to comply with these policies may result in the loss of my access to the DCS and may, in addition, result in the imposition of discipline under the District's school conduct and discipline policy. I further understand that the District reserves the right to pursue legal action against me if I willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damage or destroy property of the District. Further, the District may bring suit in civil court against my parents or guardians if I willfully, maliciously, or unlawfully damage or destroy District property pursuant to Education Law §1709(36).

Student's Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

User Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, the minor student who has signed the District's agreement for student use of computerized information resources. I have been provided with a copy and I have read the District's policy and regulations concerning use of the DCS.

I also acknowledge receiving notice that, unlike most traditional instructional or library media materials, the DCS will potentially allow my son/daughter student access to external networks not controlled by the school district. I understand that some of the materials available through these external computer networks may be inappropriate and objectionable; however, I acknowledge that it is impossible for the District to screen or review all of the available materials. I accept responsibility to set and convey standards for appropriate and acceptable use to my son/daughter when using the DCS or any other electronic media or communications.

I agree to release the North Tonawanda City School District, the Board of Education, its agents and employees from any and all claims of any nature arising from my son's/daughter's use of the DCS in any manner whatsoever.

I agree that my son/daughter may have access to the DCS and I agree that this may include remote access from our home.

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

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