



## **TERRA-Environmental Research Institute**

### **Acceptable Technology and Internet Access Use**

#### **Policy Contract Consent Form**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This document sets forth the policy of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute for acceptable use of the computer resources made available by TERRA-Environmental Research Institute, on the one hand, and consenting students, parents/guardians of students, and faculty and staff members ("Consenting Parties"), on the other hand. It shall be effective as to TERRA-Environmental Research Institute and a Consenting Party as of the date of execution of the attached Contract Consent Form by the Consenting Parties.

TERRA-Environmental Research Institute provides computing and network resources for the use of administration, students, faculty, and staff members. Users are encouraged to use the computers, software packages, subscription-online databases, and outside the school network software for educational or school-related activities and to facilitate the efficient exchange of useful educational information. However, the equipment, software, and network capacities provided through TERRA-Environmental Research Institute computer and online services are and remain the property of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute. TERRA-Environmental Research Institute may terminate the access to and use of such computer resources at any time at their sole discretion. All Technology and Internet users are expected to conduct their on-line activities in an ethical and legal fashion. TERRA-Environmental Research Institute reserves the right to use employee or student electronic productions to support the curriculum and for demonstration purposes without remuneration to employees or to student authors or their parents/guardians. The Internet links computer networks around the world giving Users access to a wide variety of computer and information resources. In general, electronic traffic passes freely in a trusting atmosphere with a minimum of constraints.

TERRA-Environmental Research Institute does not have control of the information on the Internet. Sites accessible via the Internet may contain information or material that is controversial, illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, unsuitable for minors, or potentially offensive to some people. While it is the intent of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute to make Internet access available to further the educational goals of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute, users will have the ability to access other information or materials as well. A user uses the Internet at his/her own risk, and is responsible for his/her actions and activity in using the Internet. TERRA-Environmental Research Institute makes no warranties with respect to Internet service, and specifically assumes no responsibilities for:

1. The content of advice, information or material received by a user from a source outside TERRA-Environmental Research Institute, or any damages, obligations, costs or charges incurred as a result of seeing or accepting such advice, information or material.
2. Any costs, liability or damages caused by manner of use of the Internet.
3. Any consequences of service interruptions or charges, even if these disruptions arise from circumstances under the control of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute.
4. Privacy of electronic mail.

## PROVISIONS AND CONDITIONS

Use of the TERRA-Environmental Research Institute telecommunications system, network, and access to the Internet is a privilege offered each academic year, and inappropriate use will result in revocation, denial or suspension of that privilege by the administration. Definition of inappropriate use is at the discretion of the administration, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

### [M-DCPS Acceptable Technology and Internet Use Policy](#)

[http://www2.dadeschools.net/technology/Acceptable\\_Use\\_Policy.htm](http://www2.dadeschools.net/technology/Acceptable_Use_Policy.htm)

(Do not engage in activities which violate the M-DCPS Code of Student Conduct (both elementary and secondary), Code of Conduct for Adult Students, the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession in the State of Florida, and School Board Rule **6Gx13-4A-1.21.**)

1. Using the network for any illegal or unethical activity, including but not limited to the following:
  - a) violation of copyright restrictions;
  - b) transmission of threatening, harassing, pornographic or obscene materials;
  - c) transmission of material protected by trade secret.
2. Using the network for personal financial or commercial gain, product advertisement, Political lobbying; or the sending of unsolicited junk mail or chain letters; or the use of CHAT lines in other than a supervised classroom setting.
3. Contributing to the degradation or disruption of equipment or system performance, Including but not limited to, the following:
  - a) the uploading, downloading, creation, propagation and/or use of computer viruses;
  - b) willful destruction of computer hardware or software;
  - c) unauthorized attempts to exceed or modify the parameters of the system.
4. Vandalism, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) any attempt to harm or destroy the data of another User, the network/Internet, or any networks or sites connected to the network/Internet;
  - b) any attempt to breach security codes and/or passwords.

5. Using finite resources wastefully.
6. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
7. Invading or violating the privacy of individuals, including, but not limited to the following:
  - a) the unauthorized transmission of names, residence or e-mail addresses or telephone numbers;
  - b) deleting, examining, copying, or modifying files and/or data belonging to another User.
8. Using an account owned by another user.
9. Posting anonymous or forged messages, documents, images, cartoons or other transmissions;
10. Using the network to defame, offend, harass, threaten or disrespect any person or persons. The display or transmission of messages, images, cartoons or other transmissions or use of computer messages that are sexually explicit constitute harassment and is prohibited by TERRA-Environmental Research Institute;
11. Using the network in a manner which is offensive to the mission of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute, including the use of language which is sexist, racist, or homophobic;
12. Using the network in a manner that is disruptive to the educational environment of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute.
13. Using the network in such a manner as to bring into disrepute the good name of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute.

## STUDENT SECTION

1. I understand the above provisions and conditions of this Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Access Contract. I understand its significance, and I agree to abide with all terms and conditions of it.
2. I understand and agree that any violations of the above provisions and conditions may result in disciplinary action by TERRA-Environmental Research Institute administrations (including but not limited to the revocation, suspension or denial of telecommunications system, network use, and/or Internet access privileges) and appropriate legal action.
3. I agree to report any violations of the above provisions and conditions to the TERRA-Environmental Research Institute administration or designee, and that failure to report such violations may result in disciplinary action by TERRA-Environmental Research Institute administration including, but not limited to, the revocation, suspension or denial of Internet access privileges.

## PARENT/GUARDIAN SECTION

1. I understand the above provisions and conditions of this Acceptable Technology and Internet Access Use Policy Contract Consent Form. I have either explained these provisions and conditions to my son, or I have assured myself that he understands them, and I agree to abide by them.
2. I understand and agree that any violations of the above provisions and conditions may result in disciplinary action by TERRA's administration (including, but not limited to, the revocation, suspension or denial of telecommunications system and network use, and/or Internet access privileges).
3. I understand that TERRA-Environmental Research Institute neither controls nor monitors information and material accessible through the Internet, and agree to discharge and hold harmless DTERRA-Environmental Research Institute, their officers, trustees and employees from any and all claims, liabilities, demands, causes, costs, expenses or obligations of any kind, known or unknown, arising out of or in any way relating to my son's use of or access to the Internet.

## PARENT/GUARDIAN: PLEASE INITIAL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

\_\_\_\_\_ I give full permission and consent for my son to have access to and use of the Telecommunications resources at TERRA-Environmental Research Institute, and request that TERRA-Environmental Research Institute grant Internet access privileges to my son as set forth in this Acceptable Technology and Internet Access Use Policy Contract Consent Form.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give full permission and consent for my son to have access to and use of the telecommunication resources at TERRA-Environmental Research Institute, and request that TERRA-Environmental Research Institute not grant Internet access privileges to my son/daughter.

**STUDENT NAME (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY) GRADE , STUDENT SIGNATURE, AND DATE**  
**PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE AND DATE**

(If this document is signed by only one parent/guardian, such parent/guardian represents that he/she, if parent, is either a single parent or is authorized to give this permission on behalf of both parents, or is the appointed guardian of the User.)

All users must understand that TERRA-Environmental Research Institute cannot guarantee the privacy or confidentiality of electronic (online) documents, and any messages that are confidential as a matter of law should not be communicated over the network. TERRA-Environmental Research Institute reserves the right to access the network at any time to retrieve school information and records, to engage in routine computer maintenance and housekeeping, to carry out internal or district-wide investigations, or to disclose messages, data or files to law enforcement authorities. Any information contained on a TERRA-Environmental

Research Institute computer's hard drive or computer disks which were purchased by TERRA-Environmental Research Institute is considered the property of TERRA-Environmental Research Institute.

This agreement applies to any stand-alone unit(s), as well as units connected to the network or the Internet. Any attempt to violate the provisions of this agreement will result in revocation of the User's privileges, regardless of the success or failure of the attempt. In addition, school disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action may be taken. The decision of the administration regarding inappropriate use of the technology or telecommunication resources is final. Monetary remuneration will be sought for damages necessitating repair or replacement of equipment. In case of litigation or other dispute-resolving proceedings arising from or related to this contract, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs

## INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) and TERRA-Environmental Research Institute are pleased to announce that the Internet is available to students, faculty, staff, and parents in the school district. We strongly believe in the educational value of the Internet and recognize its potential to support learning of the district curriculum.

Students in classrooms, library media center, computer labs at TERRA-Environmental Research Institute may have an opportunity to use the Internet. The Internet provides many opportunities for students to access and use very current information in a wide variety of subject areas. Examples of such information resources include the MDCPL Virtual Library, Thompson Gales Online Reference Resources, online periodicals, and many other online educational and informational research resources. The Internet also provides opportunities for students to collaborate with other students in other geographic areas.

There are many unique information resources on the Internet that are appropriate for classroom use and study. However, because the Internet is used by millions of people of all ages, there are some information sources that are not appropriate. The following list represents inappropriate uses that may occur:

- 1) Using the network for commercial advertising.
- 2) Using copyrighted material in reports without permission.
- 3) Using the network to lobby for votes.
- 4) Using the network to access a file that contains inappropriate material.
- 5) Using the network to send/receive messages that are racist or inflammatory.
- 6) Creating or introducing a computer virus and placing it on the network.
- 7) Using the network to send/receive messages with someone else's name on it
- 8) Using the network to send/receive messages that are inconsistent with the school's code of conduct.

9) Using the network to send/receive messages that are sexist and/or contain obscenities

10) Tampering or altering existing network configurations and/or connections

While the faculty, staff, and administrator(s) will supervise classroom or any other school areas use of the Internet; it is not possible for the school and to guarantee that students will not encounter, view, or read inappropriate materials. Any unauthorized access is prohibited. **If a student is observed viewing, reading, or utilizing Internet material that is inappropriate or inconsistent with the district curriculum, disciplinary action will be taken which will include revocation of Internet access privileges.**

You may request that your student not participate in hands-on activities using the Internet. If you make such a request, alternative information sources will be available for his/her use. These alternatives might include the use of library media center online resources and materials, such as specific encyclopedias, databases, titles, and/or other electronic/online information resource and/or materials. This contract does not deny student access to instructional computer use.

I understand this contract and have discussed this notification with my student and I agree that \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) be granted hands on access to the Internet as part of the instructional program for current year.

I request that \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) not be granted access to the Internet for the current school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Student (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student ID Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Date of Birth

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date