



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Electronic Devices
Code	237
Status	Active
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Purpose

The possession and Silent Use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, by district students when in compliance with this Policy, other district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, ISP terms, and local, state, and federal laws, and supportive of the educational program of the district, is permitted. However, the possession and use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, by students that are found to be disruptive to the educational process and/or environment can be abusive in ways that negatively affect students, employees, and the district's mission and environment, and is prohibited in accordance with this Policy, other district policies, regulations, rules and procedures, ISP terms, and local, state, and federal laws.

Definitions

Electronic Communication Devices - are communication devices with voice, data, text, and/or navigation capabilities that are able to access the Internet, transmit telephone calls, text messages, email messages, instant messages, video communications (such as iChat and Skype), perform word processing and other computer and online applications (apps), and provide location information. The devices are capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing, and/or displaying information and data.

Examples of **Electronic Communication Devices** include Smartphones (iPhone, Blackberry), cellular phones, mobile phones (with recording and/or camera/video and other capabilities and configurations); traditional telephones; pagers; global positional system (GPS) instruments; computers; portable game units; graphic calculators; MP3, music, and media players; PDAs; digital cameras; tablet and laptop computers; and other similar devices. Electronic Communication Devices may also be referred to as electronic devices in other publications and district policies.

Electronic Communication Devices could be devices that are not capable of transmitting telephone communications (such as iPads, radios), do not have Internet access (such as district-issued and student-owned Kindles), are lasers, and/or are radar communication

devices.

Personal Electronic Communication Devices - are Electronic Communication Devices that are owned by the student.

Silent Use - is the use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices that make no sound, are inaudible, and are speechless. Examples of Silent Use include texting, electronic messaging, and the use of headphones with the volume not being audible to others. No device ringing, ringtones, or sound effects are permitted at any time.

Authority

The Board permits Silent Use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, by district students during the school day in district buildings, on district property, and while students are attending district-sponsored activities during regular school hours when they are in compliance with this Policy, other district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, and so long as such use does not interfere with the students' educational requirements, responsibilities/duties and performance, the rights and education of others, and the operation and services of the district.^[1]

Students may use their Personal Electronic Communication Devices only if they have written consent from their parent(s)/guardian(s) on a form provided by the district.

Building level administrators, in consultation with the Superintendent and in compliance with this Policy, other district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, are authorized to determine the extent of the use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, within their schools, on the school's property, and while students are attending that school's sponsored activities during regular school hours. For example, use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, at the elementary grade level may be different than that at the middle school, and/or high school grade levels.

Unless a teacher determines otherwise, Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, must be turned off upon entering any instructional area and remain off until the student leaves the instructional area.

Instructional areas include, but are not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, practice fields, field trip locations, auditoriums, band rooms, and chorus rooms.

The district shall have the right to restrict Electronic Communication Devices during school evacuations as necessary, for the safety and security of all individuals.

The district shall not be liable for the theft, loss, damage, misuse, or unauthorized use of any Personal Electronic Communication Device brought to school by a student. Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of Personal Electronic Communication Devices brought to school, school events, or district property. The district will not be responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the personal electronic communications of students; however, it reserves the right to do so.

If Personal Electronic Communication Devices are loaned to or borrowed and/or misused by non-owners, the owners of the Personal Electronic Communication Devices are jointly responsible with the non-owner for the misuse and/or violation of district policy, regulations, rules, or procedures.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent is granted the authority to create and enforce regulation(s), rules, procedures, and forms to accompany this Policy.

The Superintendent, and/or designee, shall annually notify students, parent(s)/guardian(s), employees, and Guests about the district's Electronic Communication Device Policy by publishing the Policy in the student handbook, newsletter, posted notices, and/or any other methods.

The Superintendent, and/or designee, is responsible for training and retraining administrators and employees who are responsible for the use, supervision, discipline, investigation, confiscation, searching, and/or other matters involving students' Electronic Communication Device, including Personal Electronic Communication Device, use.

Students must comply with this Policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules and procedures. Students must comply with the guidelines set by the classroom teacher and/or district and building officials for the use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices. Students will be held responsible for their conduct in the use of the Devices and are subject to the consequences provided in the last section of this Policy.

Guidelines

1. In accordance with this Policy, Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, may be used in authorized areas or as determined by the school administration as follows:
 - a. Educational purposes including classroom activities, career development, and communication with experts, homework, and limited high quality self-discovery activities. Students are expected to act responsibly and thoughtfully when using technology resources. Students bear the burden of responsibility to inquire with school administrators and/or teachers when they are unsure of the permissibility of a particular use of technology prior to engaging in the use.
 - b. Before and after school, in the cafeteria at lunchtime, in the hallways during the passing of classes, on the district's bus if authorized by the bus driver, and in the library and a study hall if authorized by the teacher.
 - c. When the educational, safety, emergency, medical, or security use of the Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Communication Devices, by the student is approved by the building principal, or designee, or the student's IEP team. In such cases, the student's use must be supervised by a district professional.[2]
2. In accordance with this Policy, Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, may not be used in unauthorized areas or as determined by the school administration as follows:
 - a. The Board strictly prohibits possession by students on school grounds, at district-sponsored activities, and on buses or other vehicles provided by the district any non-district-owned laser pointers, or laser pointer attachments, and any Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, that are hazardous or harmful to students, employees, and the district. These include, but not limited to, devices that control/interfere

with the operation of the buildings' systems, facilities and infrastructure, or digital network. No exception or permission may be authorized by the principal, or designee, or anyone, for students to possess or use such devices.

- b. During tests, examinations, and/or assessments, unless the teacher authorizes such use. When Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, are not permitted to be used during tests, examinations, and/or assessments they must be stored in closed items such as pocketbooks and book bags, and may not be visible or turned on. For example, they may not be placed on the desktop, table or on an individual's lap.
 - c. To cheat, engage in unethical conduct, and threaten academic integrity.
 - d. To access and/or view Internet websites that are blocked by the district. Examples include, but are not limited to, social media sites, and "inappropriate matter" as defined in the district's Responsible Use Policy and Social Media Policy.
 - e. To invade the privacy rights of any student or employee, violate the rights of any student or staff member, or harass, threaten, intimidate, bully or cyberbully any student, employee, or guest, or promote or engage in violence. Actions include, but are not limited to, taking an individual's photo without consent, recording an individual's voice or image without consent, or storing/accessing personal and/or academic information/data without consent.
 - f. In locker rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, nurse's offices, main office and swimming pool areas.
 - g. To create, send, share, view, or disseminate sexually explicit, lewd images or video content, as such acts may be a crime under state and/or federal law.
 - h. To disrupt the educational and learning environment.
 - i. Inappropriate communication includes, but is not limited to, the following: obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language or images typed, posted, or spoken by students: information that could cause damage to an individual or the school community or create the danger of disruption of the academic environment, personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks; harassment (persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person) or stalking of others; knowingly or recklessly posting false or defamatory information about a person or organization; and communication that promotes the destruction of property, including the acquisition or creation of weapons or other destructive devices. If a student is told to stop sending communications, that student must cease the activity immediately.
3. Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, that violate this Policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures shall be confiscated.
 4. If school officials have reasonable suspicion that this Policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules, procedures, and laws are violated by the student's use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, and that the use of these devices materially and substantially disrupt the school's atmosphere, the devices may be lawfully searched in accordance with the

law, and/or the Electronic Communication Devices and Personal Electronic Communication Devices may be turned over to law enforcement, when warranted.

5. Students should have no expectation of privacy when using the district-owned Electronic Communication Devices and when using the district's WiFi or other service(s). In addition, students should have no expectation of privacy when they use Personal Electronic Communication Devices on the district's WiFi or other service(s).
6. When legally required and/or when in the interest of the student, the student's parent/guardian shall be notified.
7. If an Electronic Communication Device, including a Personal Electronic Communication Device, is suspected of being stolen, it shall be turned over to law enforcement.
8. Disciplinary consequences shall be in accordance with the district's policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, including but not limited to Student Discipline, Responsible Use of Information Technology Resources, Bullying/Cyberbullying, Harassment, Social Media, and other policies. [3][4][5][6][7]
9. Violations of this Policy should be reported to the Superintendent.
10. The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage, misuse, theft of any personally owned device brought to school.
11. Students are permitted to access only the designated school network through personal devices, not private networks.
12. Students will refrain from calling, text messaging, emailing or electronically communicating with others from their personal devices, including other students, parents, guardians, friends and family except during allowable times.
13. Students may not utilize any technology to harass, threaten, demean, humiliate, intimidate, embarrass, or annoy their classmates or others in the community. This is unacceptable student behavior known as cyberbullying and will not be tolerated. Any cyberbullying that is determined to disrupt the safety and/or well-being of the school is subject to disciplinary action.
14. Personally owned devices used in school are not permitted to connect to the student through EVDO, 3G, 4G or other content service providers. Personally owned devices are to connect only to the Internet via the district filtered wireless network.
15. Any attempt to access/hack into the district network will result in loss of district network access and if warranted may result in legal action.
16. Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in discipline including but not limited to suspension, criminal charges, and expulsion.
17. At times, the district may provide/share software, including apps, for Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices. When software, including apps, is shared, a Technology Equipment Usage Contract will be signed, and the shared software or app must be returned to the district at the time the student withdraws from the district or graduates.

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 510
 2. Pol. 113
 3. Pol. 218
 4. Pol. 226
 5. Pol. 233
 6. Pol. 248
 7. Pol. 249
- 24 P.S. 1303.1
- 24 P.S. 1317.1
- 47 U.S.C. 254