

Personal Communication Devices

Student possession or use of personal communication devices on district property, in district facilities during the school day and while the student is in attendance at school-sponsored activities may be permitted subject to the limitations set forth in this policy and consistent with any additional school rules as may be established by the building principal and approved by the superintendent.

A “personal communication device” is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor of the device. These devices include, but are not limited to, walkie talkies, either long- or short-range portable radios, portable scanning devices, cellular telephones and pagers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptop computers and similar devices with wireless capability.

At no time will any device be allowed which provides for a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.

Cellular telephones and pagers shall be turned off during instructional or class time or at any other time where such use of the device would cause a disruption of school activities. Cellular telephones which have the capability to take “photographs” or “moving pictures” shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or while a student is engaged in school-sponsored activities, unless as expressly authorized in advance by the building principal or designee. Laptop computers and PDAs brought to school will be restricted to classroom or instructional-related activities only. The district will not be liable for personal communication devices brought to district property and school-sponsored activities.

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior building principal or designee approval or when use is provided for in a student’s individualized education program (IEP).

Students are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for using a personal communication device in any manner that is academically dishonest, illegal or violates the terms of this policy. A referral to law enforcement officials may also be made. Personal communication devices brought to district property or used in violation of this policy are subject to confiscation and will be released to the student’s parent or property owner, as appropriate.

The superintendent shall ensure that the Board’s policy and any subsequent school rules developed by building administrators are reviewed and approved in advance to ensure consistency with this policy and that pertinent provisions of policy and rules are communicated to students and parents through building handbooks and other means.

END OF POLICY

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Students may use and possess personal communication devices on district grounds subject to the following:

1. Personal communication devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, school programs or activities, or in a manner that violates law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rules;
2. Unless as authorized in advance by the building principal or designee for health or safety reasons, or in the event of an emergency situation that involves imminent physical danger, devices shall be turned on and operated only before and after the regular school day. Personal communication devices may be used during the student's lunch break. They may not be used at any time in the proximity of any class, school activity or event that may be in session or in progress during those times;
3. Any personal communication device which allows for a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or while the student is engaged in school-sponsored activities;
4. Cellular telephones which have the capability to take "photographs" or "moving pictures" shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or at school-sponsored events unless as expressly authorized in advance by the building principal or designee;
5. The district shall not be responsible for loss, theft or damage to personal communication devices brought to district property or school-sponsored events;
6. The district shall not be responsible for students who do not comply with items 3 and 4 above.
7. Personal communication devices must not be displayed in plain view during prohibited times of use;
8. Personal communication devices such as Palm Pilots, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and laptop computers, may be used as electronic study aids during the school day if provided as a part of a student's individualized education plan (IEP), or if permission is received from the student's teacher;
9. The use of personal communication devices in any way to send or receive messages, data or information that would pose a threat to academic integrity, contribute to or constitute academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited;
10. The use of personal communication devices in any manner that would violate the confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual is strictly prohibited;
11. Students shall comply with any additional school rules as established by the building principal and classroom rules as approved by the building principal concerning the appropriate use of personal communication devices;
12. Personal communication devices used in violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation or approved school rules will be confiscated, turned in to the school office and returned to the student or parent following parent notification, conference, detention, suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement officials as appropriate.