

STUDENTS

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE

5131.81

The Board of Education supports the use of mobile and personal electronic devices while at school, and school sponsored activities as learning tools intended to support instruction and as a means of communication under circumstances approved by the school administration. Electronic communication devices such as smart phones, e-book readers, tablets, laptops as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities should be an integral part of the educational process. The Board encourages their appropriate use in the classroom or other school settings.

Use of mobile and personal electronic devices must not disrupt the classroom, harass, or harm others, or compromise law, order, and safety. The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images including recording someone covertly at a time when that person can reasonably expect that no recording is taking place whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and e-mailing. This prohibition applies to students, employees, volunteers, or any other person on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.

“Recording” for purposes of this policy includes audio recording and recording of video, still images, or other types of images. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Conduct for students or disciplinary action for employees, including suspension or termination.

Possession of electronic communication devices by students is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by this policy; or otherwise misuses this privilege. Failure to abide by this policy or other misuse of this privilege shall result in confiscation of the electronic communication device and may result in further disciplinary action.

The student who possesses an electronic communication device is responsible for its care. The Board is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to electronic communication devices brought onto its property. In addition, school staff may confiscate an electronic communication device brought to school or to a school sponsored activity based on a reasonable belief the student has used the device in a manner that violates this policy, any other school policy or state or federal law.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will establish guidelines and procedures for responsible use of mobile and personal electronic devices aimed at promoting an optimal learning environment.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Policy adopted: January 11, 2010

Revised: May 26, 2015

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

I. Definitions

- A. **Electronic communication device** means any device designed to receive and/or send an electronic signal including but not limited to smart phones, e-book readers, tablets, laptops as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities

II. Student use of electronic communication devices

- A. Electronic communication devices may be used to support instruction or as a means of communication in classrooms when approved by the classroom teacher or in other school settings when approved by the school administration
- B. The use of electronic communication devices that contain cameras is prohibited, at all times, in locker rooms, bathrooms and/or locations in which images may violate privacy.
- C. Students may not use electronic communication devices on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school or take part in any activity prohibited by the district's Technology Acceptable Use Policy.
- D. Possession of electronic communication devices by students is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege. Failure to abide by the terms of this policy or otherwise engage in misuse of this privilege shall result in confiscation of the electronic communication device and may result in further disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- E. Electronic communication devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational environment, including sending or receiving personal messages, data, or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on tests or examinations; violate the confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual; constitute bullying, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. In such cases, disciplinary action may be taken.

III. Confiscation of electronic communication devices

- A. If a student is found to be using an electronic communication device in violation of district rules, the staff member will ask the student to turn off the device and hand it to them. Students who do not comply will be immediately escorted to the office for disciplinary action.
- B. The staff member who confiscates the electronic communication device will not turn it on or view its contents.
- C. The electronic communication device will be immediately transported to the office and given to the principal or the principal's designee

- D. The principal or the principal's designee may turn-on and examine the contents of the electronic communication device only under the following conditions:
 - 1. The principal or the principal's designee first determines there are reasonable grounds to suspect that such an examination will reveal evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.
 - 2. A second staff member is present as a witness when the principal or the principal's designee examines the contents of the electronic communication device.
 - 3. The principal or the principal's designee will document the relevant contents of the electronic communication device only if the examination reveals evidence the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.
- E. The principal or the principal's designee may refer the matter and turn the electronic communication device over to law enforcement upon reasonable suspicion that the device provides evidence of illegal activity.
- F. The principal or the principal's designee may take disciplinary action and / or require the student's parent or legal guardian to come to the school's main office during normal office hours to retrieve the electronic communication device.

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10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices