BOARD POLICY

237 Electronic Devices

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Purpose

The Board recognizes that ~~mobile phones and~~ electronic devices are now an integral part of the daily lives and culture of many of the district's students. Nonetheless, the Board believes that students should have an educational environment free from unnecessary disruptions and distractions. The Board has determined that the presence of mobile phones and electronic devices has the potential to distract students ~~from their educational mission~~ and to otherwise disrupt the educational environment.

Authority

Therefore, the Board adopts this policy to help maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure and free from distractions for its students, while aiming to permit pupils to reasonably and responsibly utilize electronic devices ~~mobile technology~~.

Definition

Electronic devices shall include, but not limited to, ~~any personal communication device including~~ mobile telephones, ~~and~~ smartphones, smartwatches, wearable technology, smart glasses, augmented reality (AR) or virtual reality (VR) devices, artificial intelligence-enabled devices, earbuds or headphones capable of wireless communication, tablets, laptops, e-readers, gaming devices, personal assistants, cameras, audio or video recording devices, laser pointers, and any other personal devices capable of recording, storing, transmitting, receiving, processing, displaying, or accessing digital information or communications. ~~; any device that can capture still images or movies; any device that can~~

~~record, store, display, transmit, or receive audio or video; personal digital assistants (PDAs); any device that can provide a connection to the internet (whether wireless, wired, 3G or 4G); laptops and table computers, electronic gaming systems, pagers, e-readers, and laser pointers.~~

Guidelines

Recording / Livestreaming Prohibited

The Board prohibits all students from any use of electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, and other changing areas.

Students shall not use electronic devices to photograph, record, livestream, broadcast, or otherwise capture or distribute audio, video, images, or other information concerning students, District employees, classrooms, instructional activities, or any school-sponsored activity or event that is not open to the general public without the prior authorization of the building administrator, supervising employee, or as otherwise authorized for instructional purposes.

This prohibition applies whether the class, activity, or event takes place in person or remotely, including during virtual instruction, remote learning days, or video-based class sessions. This provision applies regardless of whether the student is physically present in a District building.

Wearable Devices

Students may be required by District employees to remove, silence, secure, or temporarily surrender wearable electronic devices whenever reasonably necessary to protect academic integrity, student privacy, safety, or the orderly operation of school activities.

~~The Board prohibits the **possession of** laser pointers and telephone paging devices/beepers by any student in district buildings and on district property, including on district buses and vehicles, and at activities, sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the district. A school administrator may grant an exception to this specific prohibition when a student is a member of a volunteer ambulance, fire, or rescue squad or where the student has a medical condition that necessitates the use of a paging device/beeper.[1]~~

~~The Board prohibits all students from any **use of** electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, and other changing areas.~~

~~The Board prohibits the **use of** electronic devices to take photographs, or to record audio or video at any time during the school day or at any school-sponsored event that is not open to the general public, unless the building administrator has authorized the photograph or recording by giving written consent, unless the use is authorized for education purposes as outlined below.~~

ELEMENTARY~~/MIDDLE~~ SCHOOL

The Board prohibits the use of any electronic devices by any elementary ~~or middle school~~ student while in district buildings, on district property and grounds ~~including on district buses~~, and at school-sponsored activities ~~except as follows below~~. An electronic device that is possessed by any student in school buildings or on district property must remain powered off and kept out of sight at all times except ~~(middle school lockers)~~ as follows below.

~~Exceptions:~~

- ~~Students participating in after-school activities may use mobile phones under the following conditions:~~
  - ~~The mobile phone must remain off during the after-school activity.~~
  - ~~The mobile phone may be turned on and used when authorized by the activity advisor, coach, or building administrator to make brief telephone calls to a parent or guardian, or other person providing transportation to the student.~~
- ~~Students may use electronic devices in the classroom during the school day for instructional purposes if, and only if, they have the prior permission of the teacher or building administrator to do so.~~
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Nothing in this policy shall affect the ability of the building administrator or his/her designee to grant approval for the use of an electronic device by a student because of a student's urgent health or safety needs, or in the event of an emergency.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the provision or use of an electronic device as stated in an Individualized Education Program ~~(IEP)~~ or Section 504 Service Agreement.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Board prohibits the use of any electronic devices by any Middle School student during instructional times during the school day (from the beginning of 1st period until the end of last period), which includes homeroom and study halls, except that students may use electronic devices during instructional times for instructional purposes if, and only if, they have the prior permission of the teacher or building administrator to do so.

Middle school students may use electronic devices on school premises before school, after school, while awaiting District transportation, or at other times designated by the building principal, provided such use complies with this policy.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the ability of the building administrator or his/her designee to grant approval for the use of an electronic device by a student because of a student's urgent health or safety needs, or in the event of an emergency.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the provision or use of an electronic device as stated in an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Service Agreement.

HIGH SCHOOL

The Board prohibits the use of any electronic devices by any high school student during instructional times during the school day (from the beginning of 1st period until the end of last period), which includes homeroom and study halls, except that students may use electronic devices during instructional times for instructional purposes if, and only if, they have the prior permission of the teacher or building administrator to do so.

Students in the high school are permitted to use electronic devices during non-instructional times including lunch periods, before school hours, after school hours, ~~study halls,~~ and between classes so long as such does not:

1. Disrupt school activities or instruction.
2. Violate any other Board or school policies.
3. Violate state or federal law.
4. Violate any of the prohibitions set forth elsewhere in this policy.

~~If an electronic device is utilized on district grounds or in a district facility utilizing the district's internet connection, then the district's Acceptable Use Policy applies and is incorporated herein by reference.~~ ~~[6]~~

~~Advisors and coaches of extracurricular activities shall have discretion to regulate and limit the use of electronic devices by high school students while participating in sports or extracurricular activities and school-sponsored trips.~~ ~~[7]~~ ~~[8]~~ ~~[9]~~

Nothing in this policy shall affect the ability of the building administrator or his/her designee to grant approval for the use of an electronic device by a student because of a student's urgent health or safety needs, or in the event of an emergency.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the provision or use of an electronic device as stated in an Individualized Education Program ~~(IEP)~~ or Section 504 Service Agreement. [5]

Use on District Transportation

Notwithstanding the grade-level restrictions above, students may use electronic devices while riding District transportation provided that such use does not, in the judgment of the bus driver or school administration:

- Create a safety concern
- Distract the driver
- Violate any other District policy
- Photograph or record others without authorization, or
- Disrupt the safe transportation environment

Additional Provisions

If an electronic device utilizes the District's internet connection, the School District's Acceptable Use Policy applies and is incorporated herein by reference.

Coaches, advisors, trip chaperones, and other staff supervising extracurricular activities may establish more restrictive limitations regarding the possession, wearing, or use of electronic devices whenever they reasonably determine it is necessary for the safety, supervision, team expectations, student privacy, or the educational purposes of the activity.

Academic Integrity

Electronic devices may not be used to obtain, access, generate, receive, transmit, or communicate answers or assistance with any assessment, examination, quiz, or other academic activity where such assistance has not been authorized by the teacher.

Loss or Damage to Electronic Devices

Students are solely responsible for the safe storage of any personal electronic devices that they choose to bring to school, even if the device is stored in a pouch or container provided by the District. The district shall not be liable or responsible for the loss or damage to any electronic devices that a student brings to school, extracurricular activities, school-sponsored events or trips, or from the confiscation of an electronic device as the result of a policy violation.

Student Responsibility for Data Charges

No student shall be required to provide a personal electronic device as a condition of receiving educational instruction. If any student chooses to utilize such a device pursuant to this policy, the student and student's parent(s)/guardian(s) assume full responsibility for any phone or data charges that may result from such use.

Limitation on Technical Support

District information technology staff may not provide technical assistance to students for their personal devices. However, this policy shall not prohibit district information technology staff from providing general instructions for the configuration of such devices to access or connect to district-owned technology resources.

~~Penalties for Violations~~

Confiscation and Penalties

District employees may require students to silence, secure, or put away electronic devices whenever reasonably necessary to maintain safety, instructional effectiveness, student privacy, or the orderly operation of school activities.

The Board authorizes building administrators, teachers, and security personnel to confiscate a student's electronic device(s) when used in violation of this policy. All confiscated electronic devices shall be delivered promptly to the building administrator's office. Confiscated devices shall be returned to the student at the end of the school day for a first offense, and only to a parent or guardian for a second or subsequent offense.

Building administrators may impose additional disciplinary sanctions against students for violations of this policy, including suspensions from school or recommendations for expulsion from school as warranted by the specific facts and circumstances in a particular case. [2] [4]

Development of Administrative Guidelines

The Superintendent or his/her designee may develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. The Superintendent shall ensure that students are made aware of this policy and any administrative guidelines by means of each school's student handbook, the district website, or other reasonable means of written communication.

Legal Footnotes

[1] **24 P.S. 1317.1**
LEGAL REFERENCE

[2] **Pol. 218 — Student Discipline**
POLICY REFERENCE

[4] **Pol. 233 — Suspension and Expulsion**
POLICY REFERENCE

[5] **Pol. 113 — Special Education**
POLICY REFERENCE

[6] **Pol. 815 — Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources**
POLICY REFERENCE

[7] **Pol. 122 — Extracurricular Activities**
POLICY REFERENCE

[8] **Pol. 123 — Interscholastic Athletics**
POLICY REFERENCE

[9] **Pol. 121 — Field Trips**
POLICY REFERENCE

Legal References

No additional references listed.