



Book  
Policy Manual  
Section  
200 Pupils  
Title  
Electronic Communication Devices  
Code  
237  
Status  
Active  
Adopted  
February 11, 2019

### **Purpose**

The Board adopts this policy in order to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure for district students and employees.

### **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 laptops, tablets, iPads, radios, Walkman players, CD players, iPods, MP3 players, DVD players, handheld game consoles, beepers or pagers), 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 prohibits use of electronic devices by students during the school day in district buildings; on district property; on district buses and vehicles; during the time students are under the supervision of the district; and in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time.[\[1\]](#)

The Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments and telephone paging devices/beepers by students in district buildings; on district property; on district buses and vehicles; and at school-sponsored activities. The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device.[\[2\]](#)

### **Electronic Images and Photographs**

The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing.

Because such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

### **Off-Campus Activities**

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist:[3]

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district furnished transportation.
2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.[4][5]
3. Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.
4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school.
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
6. There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

### **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 not be used* in unauthorized areas or as determined by the school administration as follows:[3][6][7]
  1. 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.
  2. To cheat, engage in unethical conduct, and threaten academic integrity.
  3. 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 Acceptable Use Policy and Social Media Policy.
  4. 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.
  5. In locker rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, and swimming pool areas.
  6. 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.
  7. To disrupt the educational and learning environment.
2. Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, that violate this Policy, other relevant district policies,

regulations, rules, and procedures shall be confiscated.

3. 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.
4. When legally required and/or when in the interest of the student, the student's parent/guardian shall be notified.
5. If an Electronic Communication Device, including a Personal Electronic Communication Device, is suspected of being stolen, it shall be turned over to law enforcement.
6. Disciplinary consequences shall be in accordance with the district's policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, including but not limited to Student Discipline, Acceptable Use Policy, Bullying/Cyberbullying, Harassment, Social Media, and other policies.
7. Violations of this Policy should be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

#### Exceptions

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.

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 or designee 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 building administrator may grant approval for possession and use of an electronic device by a student for the following reasons:

1. Health, safety or emergency reasons.
2. An individualized education program (IEP).[\[2\]](#)
3. Classroom or instructional-related activities.
4. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

The building administrator may grant approval for possession and use of a telephone paging device/beeper by a student for the following reasons:

1. Student is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.
2. Student has a need due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.
3. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

In accordance with this Policy, the district shall not be liable for the service, maintenance, 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.

Personally owned devices used in school are not permitted to connect to the Internet through a 3G, 4G, or other content service providers. Personally owned devices must access the internet via the district's content filtered wireless network.[8]

Students should have no expectation of privacy when using the district-owned Electronic Communication Devices and when using the district's Wi-Fi or other service(s). In addition, students should have no expectation of privacy when they use Personal Electronic Communication Devices on the district's Wi-Fi or other service(s).

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 510

2. 24 P.S. 1317.1

3. Pol. 218

4. Pol. 122

5. Pol. 123

6. Pol. 226

7. Pol. 233

8. Pol. 249

24 P.S. 1303.1-A

18 U.S.C. 2510 et seq

18 Pa. C.S.A. 5703

47 U.S.C. 254

24 P.S. 4601 et seq

Pol. 000

Pol. 113

Pol. 815

Pol. 815.1