

STUDENTS

Use of Electronic Devices

During instructional time, from the official school start time to end of the day school dismissal, which includes class periods, lunch period (elementary schools), and other specified times as determined by administration, electronic communication devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight unless:

- a. Permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member;
- b. Use of the device is provided in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 education plan; or
- c. It is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Phones and/or electronic communication devices, and accessories (i.e. earbuds, headphones, etc.), should remain concealed and be turned off unless in use pursuant to this policy. Such phones and other electronic communication devices may be used in compliance with the individual school's guidelines for usage. This time of usage may include before/after school as well as during the student's lunch time and in designated locations.

The building administration reserves the right to limit the use of cell phones in the building wherever they deem appropriate.

Unauthorized Use of Devices

A student's possession, display or use of a cellular telephone and other wireless communication devices on school property contrary to the provisions of this policy shall be viewed as the unauthorized use of the cellular phone or other wireless communication devices when such possession, display or use of such devices results in conduct which includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Interference with or disruption of the instructional or educational environment.
- b. Use which violates academic integrity, as the reproduction of images of tests, communication of test or examination contents or answers, to provide access to unauthorized school information, or assistance to students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates school Board policy or the Student Code of Conduct.
- c. The communication of the marks or grades assigned to students resulting from evaluation or the actual contents, or parts thereof, of any evaluation activity being completed by an individual(s).
- d. Use to commit a crime, under federal or state law.
- e. Violation of a student's or other person's reasonable expectation of privacy, by using such devices with photographic capabilities in student locker-rooms, restrooms, any other student changing areas, or the classroom, whether such use occurs during the instructional school day or on school property. Cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices may not be utilized to take "photographs" or "videos" while on

school property, while on school-sponsored transportation or while a student is engaged in school-sponsored activities.

f. Use in a manner that is profane, indecent, obscene, threatening, discriminatory, bullying or harassing language, pictures or gestures. Cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices which have the capability to take "photographs" or "moving pictures" shall not be used for such purposes while on school property, while on school-sponsored transportation or while a student is engaged in school-sponsored activities.

Unauthorized use of these devices is grounds for confiscation by school officials, including classroom teachers. Repeated unauthorized use of such devices may lead to disciplinary action.

Responsibility/Liability

Any student who chooses to bring a cellular telephone or other wireless communication device to school shall do so at his or her own risk and shall be personally responsible for the security of his or her cellular phone or wireless communication device. Neither the school personnel or Board will assume any responsibility or liability for loss, theft, damage or vandalism to a cellular phone or other wireless communication device brought onto school property, or for the unauthorized use of any such device.

Legal Reference: PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety

PA 96-108 An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates

PA 99-256 An Act Concerning AAC Laser Pointers

Connecticut General Statutes

[10-233j](#) Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

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