

**STUDENT ELECTRONIC DEVICES****Cellular Phones/Electronic Communication Devices**

The Board of Education (Board) is committed to providing a learning environment that is safe, positive and productive for all students. The Board acknowledges the challenge in today's digital world of preparing young people to use modern technology in a safe and responsible manner and recognizes the importance of creating age-appropriate guidelines that are responsive to students' different levels of academic, emotional, and social development.

In accordance with Board Policy 5131.81, the following regulations govern the use of cell phones/smartwatches and other electronic communication devices.

**Elementary School:** No use of a cell phone/smartwatch or other personal communication device will be permitted during school hours. These devices must be turned off and left in backpacks, stored in a student's locker/cubbie, or other place designated by building administration.

**Middle School:** No use of a cell phone/smartwatch or other personal communication device will be permitted during school hours. These devices must be turned off or on silent and left in backpacks, stored in a student's locker, or other place designated by building administration.

**High School:** Cell phones/smartwatches may be used in non-classroom areas as designated by the school administration. While the possession and limited use of a cell phone/smartwatch, or other personal communication device in school is permitted, the device must be turned off or on silent and kept out of sight in classrooms during the school day.

**Applicable to All Grade Levels**

It is important that cell phones are not a source of distraction at school. Cell phones should not be set to vibrate or to make any noise that may disrupt instruction. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that cell phones remain powered down during the school day.

The availability of school-provided electronic devices (iPads) eliminates any instructional purpose for cellphones in the classroom.

The use of a smartwatch is defined as using the smartwatch to access content, communicate, or do anything other than checking the time of day.

Cell phones/smartwatches that make noise and or disrupt the classroom or violate other district policies and or regulations may result in disciplinary action.

School administrators may confiscate cell phones, smartwatches, or other wireless communication devices at any time for failure to follow administrative regulations.

**Unauthorized Use of Devices**

A student's possession, display, or use of a cellular telephone smartwatch and other wireless communication devices on school property (including school-sponsored transportation) that is contrary to the provisions of this Regulation or their school's student handbook shall be viewed as the unauthorized use of the cellular phone or other wireless communication device.

In addition, a student's possession, display, or use of such devices will be considered unauthorized if it results in conduct which is disruptive or illegal, including but not limited to:

- a. Interference with or disruption of the instructional or educational environment.
- b. Violation of academic integrity, such 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. 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. Commission of 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 that communicates harassing language, pictures, or gestures.
- g. Violation of any district policy or regulation.

**Other Acceptable Uses**

In addition to the authorized times of use established in each building's student handbook, cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices are or may be permissible in the following circumstances:

- a. **IEP, 504, or Health Care/Medical Plan.** Students may use cellular phones, wireless communication devices, and other electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care/Medical Plan with supportive documentation from the student's physician.
- b. **Health, Safety or Emergency Reasons.** Exceptions to the restrictions in this policy, in part or in its entirety, may be made for health, safety, and emergency reasons by the Principal.
- c. **School Trips or School-Sponsored Activities.** The use of cellular phones or other wireless communication devices during specific school trips or school-sponsored activities shall be at the discretion of the Principal or their designee but shall not be disruptive to the activity.
- d. **Other Reasons.** Other reasons determined appropriate by the Principal in consultation with the Superintendent.

**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 nor the Board of Education 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.