

BP-5138 (a)

## **STUDENT POSSESSION & USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES, INCLUDING CELLULAR PHONES**

The School Board recognizes that many students possess and use cell phones and other portable electronic devices. These devices serve an important purpose in facilitating communication between the student and their family, as well as serving as tools to access electronic information. In the school setting, portable electronic devices are permitted so long as their use is consistent with this policy and does not interfere with the educational process or with safety and security.

### **Educational Uses**

In many instances, there is educational value in utilizing portable electronic devices in the classroom when such devices deliver content, and extend, enhance, and/or reinforce a student's learning process related to the student's learning style, the instructional objectives of the class and/or the learning environment. The appropriateness of in-class use of these devices consistent with the instructional objectives, within instructional time will be determined by the classroom teacher with the approval of the building administrator.

Use of portable electronic devices for students with disabilities will be outlined in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan, as determined appropriate by the IEP or 504 team.

### **Conditions of Use**

Students may possess and use portable electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, music players, tablets, laptops, etc., subject to limitations of this and other policies of the district.

Instructional time includes the entire period of a scheduled class and other time when students are directed to report to and participate in any instructional activity. The principal may establish, and school personnel may enforce, additional guidelines limiting or prohibiting the possession and use of portable electronic devices as appropriate to campus needs.

No student may use a cellular phone or personal portable electronic device in a manner, or at a time that interferes with or is disruptive of instructional time.

High school students may use cellular phones and other portable electronic devices before and after school and during the student's lunch period. Elementary and middle school students (grades K-8) may use such devices only before and after school.

During school and school sponsored activities, students will comply with this policy and with administrative and staff member directives regarding use.

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**STUDENT POSSESSION & USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES, INCLUDING CELLULAR PHONES (continued)**

Students are required to turn cell phones and other portable electronic devices over to school personnel when requested. Students who refuse to do so are subject to disciplinary action.

A cellular phone or portable electronic device that has been confiscated by the district and not turned over to law enforcement will be released/returned to the parent/guardian when no longer necessary for investigation or disciplinary proceedings. As appropriate, the cellular phone or portable electronic device may be returned directly to the student.

The district assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to personal property of students, including cell phones and other portable electronic devices, whether in the possession of students or if confiscated by school personnel pursuant to this policy.

**Prohibited Conduct**

Possession of cellular telephone or other portable electronic device by students is a privilege. This privilege will be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy or otherwise engages in misuse of the device so as to violate the law or any other school or district rule. In addition to those conduct rules set forth elsewhere, the following actions are strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action:

1. Accessing and/or viewing an Internet site that is otherwise blocked to students at school.
2. Sending an email, text message or other communication that harasses, intimidates, threatens, bullies or discriminates against another individual.
3. Taking, sending, downloading or uploading a harassing, threatening, or inappropriate photograph of anyone.
4. Using a cell phone/smartphone or camera to take photos in a restroom, dressing room, or locker room,
5. Using a cell phone, camera or other recording device to take a photo of any person who has requested that you do not do so.
6. Using a camera or other recording device to record or capture the content of tests, assessments, homework, or class work without express prior permission from the instructor.
7. Hacking or intentionally obtaining, accessing, or modifying files, passwords, or data belonging to others.