

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board adopts this policy in order to maintain/promote an educational environment that is safe and secure for district students and employees. The Board establishes that the acceptable use of electronic devices is to support instruction and as a means of communication under approved circumstances.

Students shall not use cellular telephones or any other personal technology during the instructional day except as permitted by the District's "Bring Your Own Technology" guidelines and regulations.

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, filtered or unfiltered connection to the Internet. Examples of these electronic devices include, but shall not be limited to, radios, CD players, iPods, MP3 players, DVD players, handheld game consoles, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), cellular or mobile telephones, BlackBerries, and laptop computers, as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities.

The Board prohibits/limits the use of these and other 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. Use of these devices is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time.

The Board may limit other electronic devices as appropriate. The District shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device.

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 e-mailing. Such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Therefore, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Such prohibited activity shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property if:

1. There is a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.
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.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES continued...

3. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school sponsored-activity, such as an agreement made on school property to complete a transaction outside of school that would violate the Code of Student Conduct.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and employees about the Board's electronic device policy. The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may/shall result in confiscation of the electronic device. The confiscated item shall not be returned until a conference has been held with a parent/guardian.

Exceptions

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).
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.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131 – Conduct)

(cf. 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.82 – Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material)

(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)

(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)

(cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)

ELECTRONIC DEVICES continued...

Legal Reference: 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)