

Electronic Device Policy

Scope: Electronic devices have become common useful means of communication and information in today's society. However, these devices have the potential of disrupting the orderly operation of the school for elementary students. Through DSD, Jennie P. Stewart has created this policy to govern the possession and use of electronic devices on school premises, during school hours, at school sponsored activities, and on school transportation.

Definitions: "Electronic Device" means a device that is used for audio, video, text communication or any other type of computer or computer-like instrument including: (1) a smart phone; (2) a smart or electronic watch; (3) a tablet; or (4) a virtual reality device.

"District-owned electronic device" means a device that is used for audio, video, text communication, or other type of computer or computer-like instrument that is identified as being owned, provided, issued, or lent by the District to a student or employee.

"Privately-owned electronic device" means a device that is used for audio, video, text communication, or other type of computer or computer-like instrument that is not owned or issued by the District to a student or employee.

Possession and Use: Student use of privately owned electronic devices is strictly prohibited on school grounds, at school-sponsored events and on school buses or other vehicles provided by the school. Parents who feel their children need to have a cell phone to use before or after school may have their students bring cell phones to school. However, cell phones must remain in the students' backpacks, remain powered down, and turned off during school hours. The possession and use of privately owned electronic devices during the school day, including pass-time between classes, restroom visits, lunch-time, and recess is prohibited. Students may not use cell phones inside the school or at recess. The school is not liable for damages to privately owned electronic devices.

Students may use privately owned electronic devices before school begins and after the final bell of the school day, outside of the school building, so long as they do not create a distraction or disruption. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated. Students may not take photos of others without their permission and may not post or threaten to post photos online. **Electronic devices used in ways that bully, humiliate, harass, or intimidate school-related individuals, including students, employees, and guests; or violates local state or federal law may result in confiscation of the electronic device, loss of privilege to use electronic devices, or other disciplinary action such as suspension.**

The use of electronic devices is not allowed on any other portion of the school campus at any time, including school-sponsored activities. School personnel may confiscate items which have the potential to become a disruption. Confiscated items will not be returned to students, but may be returned to parents through the principal's office. Parents will be notified by the office that their child's privately-owned electronic device has been confiscated and that the parent must come to the office to obtain the device. Continued violation of policy may result in other disciplinary action such as suspension.

District owned devices will be used following the classroom teachers' directions and in accordance to the requirements described in UAC R277-495-5 and the District Acceptable Use policy agreement. Students and employees are required to comply with the applicable District Acceptable Use policy agreement. Inappropriate use of District owned electronic devices may result in the loss of privilege to use all District owned electronic devices, suspension, or other disciplinary action.

Electronic devices during standardized assessments is strictly prohibited unless specifically allowed by statute, regulations, student IEP, or assessment directions. The unauthorized use of electronic devices that would cause invasions of reasonable expectations of student and employee privacy is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

Exceptions to this electronic device policy may be made for special circumstances such as health-related reasons, use consistent with a current and valid IEP, and emergencies as approved by school administration.

The misuse of electronic devices should be reported immediately to school personnel. School personnel will investigate and address the situation appropriately. Violation of the electronic device policy may result in disciplinary action such as confiscation of the electronic device, loss of privilege, suspension or other disciplinary action according to the District's general conduct and discipline policies.