

# West Bountiful Elementary School

## Electronic Devices Policy

Electronic devices have become a common means of communication and information access in today's society. However, these devices have the potential of disrupting the orderly operation of the school. The school has therefore created this policy to govern student possession and use of electronic devices on school premises, during school hours, at school-sponsored activities, and on school transportation.

For purposes of this policy "Electronic Device" means any privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic handheld equipment that includes, but is not limited to, existing and emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies (cellphones, smart phones, smart watches - capable of making phone calls, recording audio or video, or taking pictures, personal digital assistants, pocket computers, video/audio recorders or players, video games, digital toys, or any electronic device from the past or present deemed to be disruptive to the educational environment) and any other convergent communication technologies that do any number of the previously mentioned functions. Electronic devices also include any current or emerging wireless handheld technologies or portable information technology systems that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting/receiving/storing, etc.

**Students that choose to bring phones to school must keep them turned off and in their backpacks. Phones remain turned off (not on silent mode) in packs from the time students enter the building to the time of exit. If a student possesses a cell phone during the school day, it will be confiscated and the cell phone will only be released to an adult.** All personal items, including cell phones, are not covered by school insurance and school personnel cannot guarantee their safe-keeping.

- At no time may electronic devices be used in restrooms, at lunchtime or at recess.
- At no time may electronic devices be used in a school bus or in other school-provided vehicles of transportation in any way that might interfere with or distract the driver.

Electronic devices shall not be used in a way that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates school-related individuals, including students, employees, and visitors, or violates local, state, or federal law. **This includes phone calls or text messages made or sent from the device. As a school partner, we strongly encourage parents to monitor their students' usage at home.** This includes use in school buses or other district-provided transportation. Electronic devices may not be used during assessments or other testing situations unless specifically allowed by law, student IEP, or assessment directions.

If a student violates this policy, his or her electronic device may be confiscated. When an employee confiscates an electronic device under this policy, that employee shall take

reasonable measures to label and secure the device and deliver it to a school administrator as soon as the employee's duties permit. The electronic device will be released to the student's parent or guardian after the student has complied with any other disciplinary consequence imposed.

Violation of this policy can result in discipline up to and including:

- Suspension or expulsion from school and notification of law enforcement authorities.
- Prohibition from possession of an electronic device at school or school-related events.
- Confiscation of misused devices for increasing periods of time for subsequent violations.
- Loss of privileges of participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Disciplinary consequences consistent with a school-wide discipline program.
- Loss of honor privileges or recognition.
- Notification of law enforcement officials, at school's discretion, if circumstances warrant.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of electronic devices brought to school. The school shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or unauthorized calls or other use made with an electronic device. If devices are loaned or borrowed and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).

Individuals wishing to report a violation of this policy should contact a school administrator.

Camera or audio recording functions of electronic devices may pose threats to the personal privacy of individuals, may be used to exploit personal information, or compromise the integrity of educational programs. Accordingly, **the use of the audio recording or camera functions of electronic devices is strictly prohibited on school premises at all times.**

With prior approval of the principal, the above prohibitions may be relaxed under the following circumstances:

- The use is specifically required to implement a student's current and valid IEP or 504 plan.
- The use is at the direction and under the supervision of a teacher for educational purposes.

The use is determined by the principal to be necessary for other special circumstances such as health-related reasons or emergencies.