

Personal Communication Devices and Social Media - Staff **

Staff possession or use of personal communication devices on district property, in district facilities during the work day and while the staff is on duty in attendance at district-sponsored activities may be permitted subject to the limitations set forth in this policy and consistent with any additional school rules as may be established by the superintendent or designee. At no time, whether on duty or off duty, will a personal electronic device be used in a manner that interferes with staff duty and responsibility for the supervision of students.

A “personal communication device” is a device not issued by the district and is capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing, and/or displaying information and data.

Personal electronic devices shall be silenced during instructional time, while on duty or at any other time where such use of the device would cause a disruption of school activities or interfere with a work assignment. Devices, which have the capability to take photographs or record video or audio, shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or while a staff member is on duty at district-sponsored activities, unless as expressly authorized by the principal or designee for a use directly related to and consistent with the employee’s assigned duties. Computers, tablets, iPads or similar devices brought to school will be restricted to academic activities during on duty time.

The district will not be liable for loss or damage to personal electronic devices brought to district property and district-sponsored activities.

Staff members, while on duty and off duty, will utilize social media websites, public websites and blogs, judiciously by not posting confidential information about students, staff or district business. ¹Staff may not post images of district facilities, staff, students, volunteers or parents without written authorization from persons with authority to grant such a release. Staff members, while on duty and off duty, will treat fellow employees, students and the public with respect while posting on social media websites, etc., in order to prevent substantial disruption at school.

Communication with students using personal electronic devices will be appropriate and professional. Communication with students using personal electronic devices regarding nonschool-related matters is prohibited during work hours and strongly discouraged at all other times. If communicating with students electronically regarding school-related matters, staff should use district e-mail using mailing lists to a group of students rather than individual students. Texting a student during work is prohibited. Texting a student while off duty is strongly discouraged.

¹Nothing in this policy is intended in any form to limit the right of employees to engage in protected labor activities via the use of social media.

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with superintendent or designee approval.

Staff are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal for using a personal electronic device in any manner that is illegal or violates the terms of this policy. Staff actions on social media websites, public websites and blogs, while on or off duty, which disrupt the school environment, are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs, will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies.

Licensed staff are subject at all times to the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators. (*See* Board policy GCAA)

The superintendent shall ensure that this policy is available to all employees.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 163.432](#)
[ORS 163.686](#)
[ORS 163.687](#)
[ORS 163.688](#)
[ORS 163.689](#)
[ORS 163.693](#)

[ORS 163.433](#)
[ORS 163.700](#)
[ORS 163.057](#)
[ORS 326.011](#)
[ORS 326.051](#)
[ORS 322.072](#)

[ORS 163.684](#)
[ORS 322.107](#)
[ORS 336.840](#)
[ORS 399.372](#)
OAR 584-020-0000 – 020-0035
Senate Bill 155 (2019)

18 U.S.C. § 1466A (2018).
18 U.S.C. § 1470 (2018).
20 U.S.C. § 7131 (2018).
20 U.S.C. § 7906 (2018).

Copyrights, Title 17, as amended, United States Code (2018); 19 CFR Part 133 (2019).
Melzer v. Bd. Of Educ., City of New York, 336 F.3d 185 (2d Cir. 2003).
Ross v. Springfield Sch. Dist., No. FDA 80-1, aff'd, 56 Or. App. 197, rev'd and remanded, 294 Or. 357 (1982), order on remand (1983), aff'd, 71 Or. App. 111 (1984), rev'd and remanded, 300 Or. 507 (1986), order on second remand (1987), revised order on second remand 1988).