

SUBJECT: USE OF DRONES IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Churchville Chili Central School District prohibits the use or possession of unmanned aircraft or aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, for any purpose by any person or entity at any time while on district property and at all district events, including but not limited to athletic contests, scrimmages, or classroom activities.

This prohibition applies to the area above and upon all buildings, fields, courts, practice facilities, parking lots, outdoor classrooms, nature trails, playgrounds or any other district property.

If there is a report of UAS activity at any district event or activity, classroom activity leaders, security personnel and sports officials will suspend the activity until such time as the UAS is removed from the area as defined above or until they determine it is safe to proceed.

For purposes of this policy, a UAS is any unmanned airborne device or aircraft. The District reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone operating or attempting to operate a UAS or to request the immediate removal of any person using or attempting to use a UAS in violation of this policy.

The Superintendent has the authority to grant an exception to this policy to law enforcement, public safety agencies, or other entities or individuals. Instructional requests must be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction for approval. All other requests for an exception to the policy must be submitted to the Director of School Safety and Security at least one week prior to the event or activity utilizing district policy form 5685F. The exception is limited to the specific event or activity requested and requires the consent of the host venue if off district property.

Any use granted under this provision must comply with the applicable FAA regulations as well as any and all requirements set forth by the District. Anyone applying for an exception must have the necessary FAA authorization. FAA guidelines include but are not limited to the following:

- Registration of the UAS with the FAA
- Minimum operating age of 18 years
- Maximum drone weight of 55 lbs.
- Drone must not be capable of flying over 500 feet
- Drone may only be used during daylight hours
- Operator must maintain visual contact with the UAS

If granted an exception for a specific activity, prior permission must be gained to utilize all captured images to ensure student privacy and the drone must not be flown over spectator areas or playgrounds. Any individuals granted an exception would be required to sign a document acknowledging and agreeing to the terms of use and agreeing to hold the Churchville-Chili Central School District harmless from damage to persons and property. In addition, the UAS controller must provide proof of appropriate liability insurance.

Adopted: 11/28/2017

Reviewed by Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services and Director of School Safety and Security on 9/23/2020 with no recommended changes; BOE reviewed and agreed on 10/13/2020