

# Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in October</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>3.219</b>	Issued Date: <b>09/12/22</b>
		Rescinds:	Issued:

## *General*

An unmanned aircraft system (“drone”) is a powered, aerial vehicle that:

1. Does not carry a human operator and is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft;
2. Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;
3. Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely; and
4. Can be expendable or recoverable.<sup>1</sup>

## **APPROPRIATE USE**

Visitors and unsupervised students are prohibited from operating drones on district property. Staff members, students, coaches, sponsors, or parent(s)/guardian(s) representing the district or any of its affiliated clubs shall operate any and all district drones in accordance with all applicable Federal Aviation laws and regulations.<sup>2</sup> This includes any additional certifications or authorizations that may be required from the Federal Aviation Administration (<https://www.faa.gov/uas>) based on the drone’s intended use.<sup>3</sup> The following guidelines shall be adhered to when flying a drone on district property:

1. All drones operating on district property shall weigh no more than fifty-five (55) pounds;
2. Operators shall not operate a drone within five (5) miles of any airport without prior notification and confirmation from airport authorities;
3. Operators shall not operate a drone above an altitude of four-hundred (400) feet above ground level and remain clear of surrounding obstacles;
4. Operators shall maintain safe control and line of sight with the drone during all stages of operation;
5. Operators shall maintain a safe operating distance from crowds and ensure drone operations do not interfere with manned aircraft operations;
6. Data collected by a drone can only be used for hobby (educational) purposes and may not be sold for profit;

7. If there is a plan to fly drones over property that is not owned by the district, the Director of Schools shall first obtain written permission from the owner of the property. Staff members operating drones on property not owned by the district shall adhere to all guidelines as required when flying on district property;<sup>3</sup> and
8. Operators assume all risk of damage to property and bodily injuries that may occur due to unsafe operation of drones.

**INAPPROPRIATE USE**

Inappropriate use of drones includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Violating any local ordinances or state or federal law;<sup>4</sup>
2. Taking pictures of property or persons without consent;<sup>5</sup>
3. Violating safe operating protocols as defined in the drone user manual and classroom guidelines;
4. Failing to follow board policy while using any drone; and
5. Harassing, interfering with another's work, insulting, or attacking others.

**VIOLATIONS**

Staff members shall monitor for inappropriate use of any drones. Violators may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, suspension and/or expulsion for students or suspension and/or termination for employees.

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Legal References

1. TCA 39-13-609(b)
2. FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, 49 USCA § 40101 *et seq.*; 49 USCA § 44801 *et seq.*
3. FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, 49 USCA § 40101 *et seq.*; 14 CFR § 21.1 *et seq.*
4. TCA 39-13-903; TCA 39-14-405
5. TCA 39-13-903(a)(3)