# LENAPE AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ADOPTED: December 16, 2004

REVISED: June 16, 2011
April 16, 2015

## 237. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. Authority
SC 1317.1

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess.

2. Guidelines

**Laser Pointers.** The Joint Operating Committee prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments, by students on school grounds, on buses or other vehicles provided by the School, and at school sponsored activities.

**Pagers.** The joint operating committee prohibits possession of telephone paging devices (beepers) by students on school property, on buses or other vehicles provided by the School, and at school sponsored activities. Provided prior approval is obtained from the Administrative Director or appropriate personnel designated by the Administrative Director this prohibition shall not apply in the following cases:

1. A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad; or
2. A student who has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member; or
3. Other reasons determined by the Administrative Director or appropriate personnel designated by the Administrative Director.

**Cellular Telephones.** Special rules exist for cellular telephones. See Policy No. 237.1. If a conflict exists between this Policy and Policy No. 237.1, Policy 237.1 controls.

**If an Electronic Device is being used or has the capabilities of being used in the same manner as a cellular telephone, it shall be treated as cellular telephone and subject to the rules and regulations of Policy #237.1**

**Electronic Devices.** Electronic Devices shall include all existing and emerging devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the internet. Examples of these devices include, but shall not be limited to, smart phones, laptop or mini computers, digital picture/video cameras and/or camera phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), iPods, MP3 players, and other personal electronic devices capable of transmitting data or images.

**Respect For The Educational Environment and Privacy of Others**

Lenape Technical School holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity and the responsible use of electronic devices, particularly those devises capable of capturing and/or transmitting data or images. Students who possess and/or use such devices at school or school-sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community.

**Standards For Responsible Use At School, On Buses Or At School Sponsored Activities**

**Acceptable Use Guidelines-General**

Electronic Devices brought to school shall be restricted to classroom or instructional-related activities. Students shall comply with the guidelines set by the classroom teacher or school officials for the educational use of Electronic Devices.

**Respect For The Educational Environment –**

1. Electronic Devices shall be turned off and must be kept out of sight during instructional time, except if use is approved by the instructor as a tool to complete an activity or assignment.
2. Students shall not use any Electronic Device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment.
3. Students will not be allowed to leave class in response to any Electronic Device.

**Electronic Images and Photographs Prohibited**

***Respect for Privacy***

1. Students shall not photograph, videotape, or record other individuals at school, on school district property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored activities without their knowledge and consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena such as public performances.
2. Use of electronic devices is strictly prohibited in locker rooms and restrooms.
3. Use of electronic devices is prohibited in the nurses' office, guidance office, and school office unless school personnel in charge of the office specifically permit use of the electronic device, in which case the device may be used ONLY to the extent that permission was expressly granted.

**Obscene Material**

The Joint Operating Committee prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal and/or offensive images, photographs and/or data, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing.

Because such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law, Lenape Technical School may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

**Assuring Academic Integrity**

Electronic Devices may not be used in any manner in a classroom, library, computer lab, office, auditorium (unless an event opened to the general public), gymnasium (unless an event opened to the general public), without the specific consent of the teacher or other school official.

Use of electronic devices is prohibited during testing, except where specifically authorized by the teacher or staff member and where the use of such device is required for the test.

Electronic Devices may not be used in any manner that may cause a teacher or staff member to reasonably question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy.

**Compliance With Other Building Policies and Applicable Laws**

Use of Electronic Devices must not violate any other building policies, including, but not limited to, those regarding student privacy, copyright, cheating, plagiarism, student Code of Conduct, Acceptable Use Policy, or harassment. If a violation involving more than one (1) district policy occurs, consequences for each policy will apply.

All use of cellular phones and personal electronic devices must be in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Pennsylvania Wiretapping and Surveillance Act.

**Exceptions**

The Administrative Director or appropriate personnel designated by the Administrative Director may grant approval for possession and use of an electronic device by a student for the following reasons:

1. Health, safety or emergency reasons.
2. An individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.
3. Classroom or instructional-related activities at the direction of a teacher.
4. Other reasons determined appropriate by the Administrative Director or appropriate personnel designated by the Administrative Director.

**Notification**

The Administrative Director or appropriate personnel designated by the Administrative Director shall annually notify students and parents/guardians about the School's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook. In addition to the student handbook, notification may be placed in newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods. Staff shall also be annually notified.

**Student Discipline**

Students who violate this policy shall be subject to in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, temporary or permanent revocation of electronic devise privileges, and/or confiscation of the Electronic Device.

A confiscated device shall be deactivated and returned at the end of the school day. Parents/guardians will be notified of any disciplinary action, including confiscation. At the discretion of the Administrative Director or Assistant Director/Principal, confiscated devices will not be returned until a conference has been held with a parent/guardian.

If an electronic device is loaned or borrowed and then misused by the non-owner, both the owner and non-owner shall be jointly responsible for any misuse or violation of school policy.

Prohibited activity shall also apply to student conduct that occurs **off school property** if:

1. There is a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities; or
2. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, such as an agreement made on school property to complete a transaction outside of school that would violate the Code of Student Conduct; or
3. School officials reasonably believe the conduct will cause actual and material disruption or interference with school operations; or
4. The conduct actually disrupts or interferes with school operations.

As in the case of other personal property, the School is not responsible for any financial losses incurred by a student or family if an electronic device is lost, stolen, vanished or misused. Students shall be personally responsible for the security of electronic devices brought to school. All electronic devices brought to school will be at the owner's own risk.