

Personnel: Certified/Non-Certified - Rights, Responsibilities and Duties
Students: Activities - Student Conduct

Electronic Devices

The Board of Education adopts this policy in order to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure for district students and employees.

Definitions:

Electronic device shall include but not be limited to radios, walkmans, CD players, iPods, MP3 Players, DVD Players, hand held game consoles, PDAs, cell phones, BlueTooth, ear buds, Blackberries, pagers, laptop computers, laser pointers, as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities.

Students:

No Student shall possess or use an electronic device during the school day in district buildings, on district property, or on district buses or vehicles during the time students are under the supervision of the district unless such student obtains the written permission of the building principal for such possession and use or such use is sanctioned by the classroom teacher for an educationally sound reason. The building principal shall grant such permission only if the student or his parent or guardian establishes to the satisfaction of the principal that a reasonable basis exists for the possession and use of the device.

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic device. The first such violation of this policy shall result in the student being directed to return such device to his or her locker until the end of the school day. If that student is thereafter found in possession of such device, it shall be confiscated. Confiscated items shall not be returned until a conference has been held with a parent or guardian.

The District shall not assume responsibility for devices that are damaged, lost or stolen when brought to school or are being confiscated for violation of this policy.

Staff:

The Board believes that Staff has an obligation to model appropriate electronic device usage to our students. Therefore no member of Staff may use a cell phone, Blackberry or other electronic communication device while in the halls of our buildings or in any classroom. Any such electronic communication device, when not in use, shall remain "Off" or set to "Vibrate" while on school property.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parent/guardians and employees about this policy. The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Electronic Images and Photographs:

The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing. Such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Therefore the District shall report such conduct to the state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Such 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.
2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activity.
3. 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.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131 – Conduct)

(cf. 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.82 – Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material)

(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)

(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)

(cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

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New London Public Schools
New London, Connecticut