

Revised:

524.5 STUDENT USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess, including but not limited to mobile phones, smart watches, headphones/earbuds, and other personal electronic devices capable of recording and/or transmitting data or images.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school district holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity and responsible use of technology. Students who possess and/or use technology devices at school, on school buses 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. State laws provide employees and students with certain privacy rights. Students' actions during the school day, in class and at school, are considered private under state and federal laws and shall not be recorded or shared without consent of the individual.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. “Mobile phone” means a cell phone or other wireless electronic communication device, including a smart watch with communication capabilities, such as an Apple Watch that allows users to make and receive calls, send and receive text messages, communicate and transmit data using other applications on the device, play games, and/or access the Internet. A mobile phone may be a device that connects to a cellular network, Wi-Fi network, or satellite network to transmit data.

IV. STANDARDS FOR RESONSIBLE USE AT SCHOOL, ON BUSES OR AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

A. Respect for the Educational Environment:

1. The school district provides appropriate technology devices for learning when specific devices are required. Students are prohibited from using mobile phones and other electronic communication devices, including headphones or earbuds, during the instructional day, except when allowable in designated areas. Students also are prohibited from using a mobile phone or other electronic communication device to engage in

conduct prohibited by school district policies including, but not limited to, cheating, bullying, harassment, and malicious and sadistic conduct. Mobile phones and other personal electronic devices shall remain silent and be kept out of sight during instructional time.

2. Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment or for inappropriate, unethical or illegal purposes, including but not limited to, transmission or viewing of inappropriate or pornographic material, violations of others' privacy rights, cheating, harassing or bullying behavior. Accessing inappropriate material in school, on a school bus, or at a school activity will result in disciplinary action, even if such access is accidental. Parents are encouraged to monitor and/or restrict mobile internet access for students.

B. Respect for Privacy Rights:

1. Students shall not record, photograph or video other students or school employees on school property, on a school bus or at school-sponsored activities without their knowledge and consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena (e.g. sporting events, public meetings, academic competitions or public performances). School social events, activities sponsored by student clubs, team building retreats, and activities that take place during the school day are not considered to be in the public arena.
2. Students shall not email, text, post to the internet or social media, or otherwise electronically transmit images of other individuals taken at school without their expressed consent.
3. Recording, photographing, or making video of others is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing rooms, health offices and restrooms, where individuals have every expectation of privacy.
4. If the school district has a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated a school policy, rule, or law by use of a mobile phone or other electronic communication device, the school district may search the device. The search of the device will be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances justifying the search.

- C. Assuring Academic Integrity:** Students shall not use mobile phones or other electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy.

Students are advised that the use of any audible transmission through any mobile or electronic device during certain testing events (including but not limited to

MCA, ACT and Advanced Placement exams) will result in the student being removed from the room and immediate cancellation of the exam.

D. Compliance with Other District Policies: Use of mobile phones or other personal electronic devices must not violate any other school district policies, including those regarding student privacy, copyright, cheating, plagiarism, civility, student code of conduct, electronic technologies acceptable use, or harassment. If a violation occurs involving more than one school district policy, consequences for each policy may apply.

E. Responsibility for Personal Property:

1. Students who choose to bring a personal device to school assume all responsibility and risks relating to the possession and use of personal devices, including internet access and data transmission.
2. Parents are advised that mobile devices are not subject to the school district's internet filters and responsibility for ensuring appropriate access to the internet rests with the individual student and family.
3. School district employees will not be responsible for storing, safeguarding or troubleshooting any student's personal electronic devices.
4. Neither the school district nor its employees will be responsible or liable for the theft, loss, data loss, damage, destruction, misuse, or vandalism of any student personal electronic device brought into the school district or on school property or on school buses.

V. VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY

Students who use mobile phones during the instructional day and/or in violation of school district policies may be subject to disciplinary actions as defined by the school district's student discipline policy, including, but not limited to parent notification, a behavior contract, detention, suspension, expulsion, and/or prosecution.

1. A student's mobile phone or electronic communication device may be confiscated by the school district and, if applicable, provided to law enforcement. Mobile phones or other electronic communication devices that are confiscated and retained by the school district will be returned in accordance with school building procedures.

VI. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

This policy shall be included in the Student/Parent Handbook, posted to the school district website and otherwise distributed upon request.

Cross References: District 77 Policy 413 Harassment and Violence
District 77 Policy 506 Student Discipline
District 77 Policy 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records
District 77 Policy 524 Internet Acceptable Use Policy
District 77 Policy 542 Bullying Prohibition Policy