POLICY NO. 1415
Adopted: 1-24-24

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM AND MODEL AIRCRAFT

POLICY:

The operation of unmanned aircraft systems including drones and model aircraft is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and relevant state law. Inherent risks in the operation of such equipment require additional insurance provisions and policy considerations. Lake Stevens School District will establish procedures required to ensure compliance with those legal obligations and to reduce risks to safety, security and privacy.

The unapproved use or possession of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) (commonly referred to as "drone") or model aircraft on or above district property or at a district–sponsored event is prohibited. This means, individuals and entities shall not, at any time, without prior district approval, use or possess a UAS or model aircraft on, in, above, or upon any district property or premises, including those owned, leased, maintained, or used by the district.

The district reserves the right to remove or refuse entry or admission to any individual or entity who violates this policy. The district further reserves the right to exclude any individual or entity who violates this policy from future entry upon district property or entry to district-sponsored events. Students and employees violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action or discharge. Any violator may also be reported to authorities, including local law enforcement and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Definitions

1. Unmanned Aircraft System (aka Drone):
   Unmanned aircraft system means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.

2. Unmanned Aircraft:
   Unmanned aircraft means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.

3. Model Aircraft:
   A model aircraft means an aircraft that is:

   a) Capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere;
   b) Flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft; and
   c) Flown for hobby or recreational purposes.

Approval Process

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Authorized use of drones may be approved as a component of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses such as: science, computer science, technology, and aviation-related educational curricula relating to flight, aerodynamics, and airplane design and construction, or for course work in other areas such as television, film production, photography or the arts. Any staff member who wishes to use drones and/or UAS in their curricular program must provide specific educational objectives and obtain prior written approval from the Superintendent or designee.

Any individual or entity wishing to use or possess a UAS or model aircraft on district property or at a district-sponsored event that is not associated with the CTE program must receive pre–approval. Individuals and entities must seek pre–approval from the superintendent or designee.

Any individual or entity who receives pre–approval to use or possess a UAS or model aircraft on district property or at a district-sponsored event must abide by district policies and procedures, any special restrictions put in place by the person granting pre–approval, the laws set forth in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, and any laws adopted by state and local authorities. As an educational institution not eligible for the Exception for Limited Recreational Operations of Unmanned Aircraft, we will abide by Part 107 (14 CFR Part 107) rules.

The superintendent or designee may require those using or possessing a UAS or model aircraft to: (a) provide proof of insurance; (b) enter into an agreement which holds the district harmless from any resultant claims or harms to individuals and damage to property; and (c) to abide by any additional requirements as determined appropriate by the district.

The Superintendent or designee will establish procedures governing the use of drones and UAS in any of the educational offerings, programs, or activities in the Lake Stevens School District.

Cross References:	1410 – Community Use of School Buildings, Equipment, Grounds 1420 - Safe and Orderly Learning Environment 1740 – Relations with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Agencies, and County Health Department 5100.1- Student Discipline
Legal References:	FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-95, Sections 331, 336, 126 Stat. 11

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PROCEDURES:

Drone Requirements:

Requirements for Educators:

1. Pass the initial aeronautical knowledge exam; 'Unmanned Aircraft General – Small (UAG)'.
2. Use drones that are less than 55 lb.
3. Register drones with FAA at FAADroneZone.
4. Drones must be made available to the FAA for inspection or testing upon request, and provide any associated records required to be kept under the rule.
5. Any operation that results in a serious injury, loss of consciousness, or other property damage of at least $500 must be reported to the FAA within 10 days.

Requirements for Pilots:

1. Drone operator must be at least16 years old and have a remote pilot airman certificate or be under the direct supervision of a person who holds such a certificate.
2. Perform a preflight visual and operational check of the drone to ensure that safety-pertinent systems are functioning properly.
3. Keep the drone lower than 400 feet and at least 25 feet below any surrounding obstacles.
4. Maximum speed of flight is 100 mph (87 knots).
5. Keep the drone within sight at all times. A visual observer can be used.
6. Stay well clear of, and do not interfere with, manned aircraft operations. If a manned aircraft is seen, all drones are to land immediately.
7. Avoid flying over unprotected persons or moving vehicles and remain at least 25 feet away from individuals and vulnerable property or infrastructure such as power lines and water treatment facilities.
8. Contact the airport and control tower before flying within five miles of an airport or heliport by using FAA's B4UFly mobile App.
9. Do not fly the drone in adverse weather conditions such as in high winds or reduced visibility.
10. Do not fly if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
11. Check and follow all local laws and ordinances before flying over private property.
12. Never conduct surveillance or photograph a person in areas where there is an expectation of privacy unless you have the individual's permission.
13. There will be no operating a drone from a moving vehicle.