

Policy

ELECTRONIC PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students

Students may possess, display, and use electronic portable communication devices only as set forth in this policy.

Electronic portable communication devices are defined to include portable two-way telecommunication devices, including but not limited to cellular telephones, walkie-talkies, personal digital assistants, and other hand-held computing devices (when such device is being used as a communication device). This definition will also include any new technology developed for similar purposes. Excluded from this definition is any device with communication capabilities that has been approved for instructional purposes.

To avoid disruption of the instructional process, except as provided below, students shall not display, use, activate, or permit electronic portable communication devices to be activated in any school building during the instructional day. The instructional day includes, but is not limited to, study halls, lunch break, class changes, and any other structured or non-structured instructional activity that occurs during the normal school day. Students are responsible to ensure that their devices are turned off and out of sight.

Electronic portable communication devices may not be used during the school day unless use of the devices is provided in the student's IEP, or permission is received from the student's teacher. This includes a prohibition on the use of the photographic function of any device.

Electronic portable communication devices may be activated, displayed, or used before or after the end of the instructional day or at after-school activities, provided they do not interfere with any after school activity and their use conforms to directives of the school administration and/or the staff member overseeing such activity. Evidence of unlawful or disruptive use will result in disciplinary action according to the discipline guidelines as specified in the school's handbook and/or reports to law enforcement authorities.

Students shall be mindful of the disruptive effect to others when making or receiving calls on electronic portable communication devices during an after-school activity and use reasonable efforts to minimize inconvenience and discourtesy to others.

Electronic portable communication devices may be carried on a board of education owned/leased school bus or vehicle while students are being transported to and/or from school or a school sponsored activity.

These devices may be transported but they must be concealed in a backpack, or other container. The use, activation, or display of any such device on a bus is prohibited without consent of the staff member in charge of the experience. Evidence of unlawful or unauthorized use will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the school's Student Code of Conduct.

The board of education will assume no responsibility in any circumstances for the loss/destruction/damage or theft of electronic portable communication devices or for any communication costs associated with the authorized or unauthorized use of said devices. Students will be responsible for locating such lost/stolen items.

Staff

The staff is prohibited from the use of personal cell phones, pagers, walkie-talkies, or other electronic portable devices while they are performing their assigned duties (class time, duty periods). During meeting time, personal cell phones should be turned off and not used. Personal cell phones may be used during planning periods, lunch periods, and before and after the regular workday.

ELECTRONIC PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES (continued)

Adopted: March 7, 2006
 NJSBA Review/Update: November 2009
 Readopted: December 14, 2009

Key Words

Electronic Portable Communication Devices, Cell Phone, Cellular Telephone, Camera Phone, Walkie-Talkies, Personal Digital Assistants, IPOD, MP3 Player, Hand-Held Computing Devices, Telecommunication

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2C:33-19	Paging devices, possessions by students
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2C:39-1	Definitions
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2C:39-6	Exemptions
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-1	Corporal punishment of students
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:36-19.2	Student locker or other storage facility; Inspections; notice to students
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-1	Submission of students to authority
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-2	Causes for suspension or expulsion
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-2.8	Discipline/suspension/expulsion

P.L. 103-382, Improving America's Schools Act of 1994

Policy

Cross References:

*4119.22/4219.22	Conduct and Dress (Staff)
*5131	Conduct and Discipline
*6142.10	Technology

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.