

STUDENT USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES

The Ouachita Parish School Board shall prohibit, as outlined in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:239, students from using or operating cell phones, cameras, video tape recorders, digital recorders of any kind, or any electronic telecommunication device in public school buildings and on school buses used to transport public school students. Cell phone “*use*” is defined for this policy as the cell phone or device being in the “*on*” position or mode. Student cell phones or devices are required to be kept out of sight and turned off during school hours in a school building or on school grounds, or whenever on a school bus. This policy is inclusive of any such device as stipulated above in a student’s possession.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES DISCIPLINE

First Offense:

Parents will be called. Phone is taken and returned to student at the end of the day. Written minor infraction that parents must sign.

Second Offense:

Parents will be called. Phone taken and returned when parent picks it up prior to 3:00 p.m. Written minor infraction that parents must sign.

Third Offense:

Parents will be called. Phone will be taken for three (3) days and parents must pick up phone at school prior to 3:00 p.m. Written minor infraction that parents must sign.

Fourth Offense:

Parents will be called. Phone will be taken for five (5) days and parents must pick up phone at school prior to 3:00 p.m. Referral is written and put into system.

Fifth Offense:

Parents will be called. Phone will be taken for ten (10) days and parents must pick up phone at school prior to 3:00 p.m. Referral is written, student is given suspension, and must see CWA (Child Welfare and Attendance) before returning to school.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES DISCIPLINE

School administrators shall use the following procedure as corrective action for any student who violates this policy:

First offense:

Parents will be called. Parent/Guardian may pick the device up prior to 3:30 pm Monday -Friday. Student shall receive a written report (minor infraction)

Second offense:

Parent/Guardian will be called. Parent/Guardian may pick the device up prior to 3:30 pm Monday -Friday. Student shall be assigned to Saturday Seminar (minor infraction or written referral)

Third offense:

Parent/Guardian shall be called. Parent/Guardian may pick the device up prior to 3:30 pm Monday-Friday. The student will be allowed to return to school campus after meeting with a Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) Officer. This must be done within a five (5) day period. During the time away from school, students will be responsible for all online coursework. *Students identified by Section 504 or Bulletin 1508 must report to CWA within three (3) days.*

Fourth offense:

Parent or guardian will be called. Parent or guardian may pick the device up prior to 3:30 Monday- Friday. The student will be given three (3) days in-school suspension.

If parent and/or student refuse the “parent pick up” option up, the student shall receive a three (3) day suspension and will be responsible for all online coursework.

EXCEPTION FOR EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency, any person may use any electronic device available. Emergency is defined as an actual or imminent threat to public health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

Revised: July 13, 2021

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. ' ' 17:239, 17:416, 17:416.1; Board minutes, 5-22-07, 5-25-07, 6-17-08, 5-19-09, 7-13-21.