Ferndale Area School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Electronic Devices
Code	237
Status	Active
Adopted	May 17, 1995
Last Revised	August 25, 2021
Prior Revised Dates	08/19/2015, 11/18/2020

Purpose

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

Definition

Electronic devices shall include any personal communication device including mobile telephones and smartphones; any device that can capture still images or movies; any device that can record, store, display, transmit, or receive audio or video; any device that can provide a connection to the Internet (whether wireless or wired); laptops and tablet computers, electronic gaming systems, pagers, e-reader, and laser pointers.

Authority

Therefore, the Board adopts this policy to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure and free from distractions for its students, while aiming to permit pupils to reasonably and responsibly utilize mobile technology.

The Board prohibits the **use of** personal electronic devices by students in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time. Cell phones and other personal electronic devices shall be turned off and kept out of sight within these and other sensitive areas with regards to privacy and personal student space.[1]

Students may use cell phones and other personal electronic devices if used appropriately and respectfully, as described in this policy, during times and in locations approved by the building principal as further defined and described in the Student Handbook.

Ferndale Area School District provides each grade 7-12 student with a district-purchased iPad for use in school and for school-related work outside of school. Beginning the 2020-2021 school year, Ferndale Area School District will provide each grade K4-6 student with a district-purchased iPad for use in school and for school-related work outside of school, as appropriate/necessary.

The district will provide a list of iPad expectations, set forth in a contract between the district and the student/student's parent/guardian.

If an electronic device utilizes the district's Internet connection, the school district's Acceptable Use Policy applies and is incorporated herein by reference.[9]

Advisors and coaches of extracurricular activities shall have discretion to regulate and limit the use of electronic devices by high school students while participating in sports or extracurricular activities, and school-sponsored trips.[4][5]

Nothing in this policy shall affect the ability of the building administrator or his/her designee to grant approval for the use of an electronic device by a student because of:[2][8]

- A student's urgent health or safety needs.
- In the event of an emergency.
- The student is a member of a volunteer ambulance, fire, or rescue squad that necessitates the use of a paging device/beeper.
- Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the provision or use of an electronic device as stated in an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement.[8]

Possession of a laser pointer by any student in district buildings and on school property (including transportation) and at school activities sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the district is prohibited.[2]

Loss or Damage to Electronic Devices

Students are solely responsible for the safe storage of any personal electronic devices that they choose to bring to school. The district shall not be liable or responsible for the loss or damage to any electronic devices that a student brings to school, extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events or trips, or from the confiscation of any electronic devices as the result of a policy violation.

Responsibility for Data Charges

No student shall be required to provide a personal electronic device as a condition of receiving educational instruction. If any student chooses to utilize such a device pursuant to this policy, the student and parents/guardians assume full responsibility for any phone or data charges that may result from such use.

Limitation on Technical Support

District information technology staff may not provide technical assistance to students for their personal devices. However, this policy shall not prohibit district information technology staff from providing general instructions for the configuration of such devices to access or connect to district-owned technology resources.

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, emailing, or social media.

Because such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and employees about the Board's electronic device policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Guidelines

The Board prohibits all students from any use of electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, and other changing areas.[1]

The Board prohibits the use of electronic devices to take photographs, or to record or livestream audio or video at any time during the school day or at any school-sponsored event that is not open to the general public, unless the building administrator has authorized the photograph/video/livestream or recording by giving written consent, unless the use is authorized for educational purposes as outlined below. "During the school day" includes the time while students are engaged in remote instruction, even if students are not physically in a school district building.

Violations of This Policy

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and shall result in confiscation of the electronic device.[3][6][7]

Penalties for Violations

The Board authorizes building administrators, teachers and security personnel to confiscate a student's electronic devices when used in violation of this policy. All confiscated electronic devices shall be delivered promptly to the building administrator's office. Confiscated devices shall be returned to the student at the end of the school day for a first offense, and only to a parent/guardian for a second or subsequent offense.[3][6][7]

1. First Infraction – The first infraction shall result in a district employee confiscating the device and turning it in to the school office where the student may retrieve it after a conference has been held with the principal or assistant principal.

2. Second Infraction – The second infraction shall result in confiscation of the device, which is to be turned in to the school office, notification of a parent/guardian and a warning that the next infraction will result in the termination of the right to possess a cellular phone or any electronic device at school for a period of forty-five (45) school days. A parent/guardian must attend a conference with the principal/assistant principal and retrieve the device from the school office. A detention may be assigned.

3. Third Infraction – The third infraction shall result in confiscation of the device, which is to be turned in to the school office, notification of a parent/guardian, and termination of the right to possess a cellular phone or any electronic device at school a period of forty-five (45) school days. After a conference with school administration concerning the repeated violations, a parent/guardian may retrieve the device from the school office. A detention will be assigned.

4. Building administrators may impose additional disciplinary sanctions against students for violations of this policy, including suspensions from school or recommendations for expulsion from school as warranted by the specific facts and circumstances in a particular case.

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 510

2. 24 P.S. 1317.1

3. Pol. 218

4. Pol. 122

5. Pol. 123
6. Pol. 226
7. Pol. 233
8. Pol. 113
9. Pol. 815