

JFCK-STUDENT USE OF PRIVATELY-OWNED ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL

The Scarborough School Board recognizes that many students possess privately owned electronic devices and bring these devices to school. The Board also recognizes that students learn best in an environment free of distractions.

Privately owned electronic devices may not be used in any manner that disrupts the educational process, is illegal, or violates Board policies and/or school rules. The Scarborough School Department is not responsible for damage, loss or theft of such devices. The Superintendent is authorized to develop any school rules necessary to implement this policy.

The Scarborough School Board will continue to evaluate the impact that privately owned electronic devices have on our students and as such, will continue to evaluate our policy to best meet our students' needs.

Privately owned electronic devices covered by the following provisions include cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, electronic toys, and electronic games. Other privately owned electronic devices including calculators, laptops, e-readers, and tablets used for approved educational purposes are permissible.

1. Grades K-8 students must turn off and store privately-owned electronic devices in a designated location during school hours.
2. During the school day, high school students (grades 9-12)
 - May not use privately owned electronic devices during academic time (including advisory, study halls, assemblies and library).
 - May use their cell phone if a staff member gives student(s) specific permission to use their device for a clear educational purpose.
 - Are required to place cell phones in a designated location upon entering an academic area.
 - May not take their cell phones with them when they request to leave class (bathroom, office visit, etc).
 - May only use smart watches in airplane mode.
 - May use their cell phones during lunch, passing time and between classes. Care must be taken to use such devices in a manner that does not interrupt the activities of others.

For all privately owned electronic devices, the following apply:

1. The use of privately owned electronic cameras and/or the camera/video/sound recording functions on any privately owned electronic device is strictly prohibited in certain areas of Scarborough Public Schools, including the cafeteria, locker rooms, restrooms, and buses.

2. Any use of privately-owned electronic devices that violates any Board policy, administrative procedure or school rule is strictly prohibited. In addition, accessing, viewing, submitting, forwarding, downloading or displaying any materials that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing, bullying and/or illegal is prohibited during school hours and/or at any school sponsored activities.
3. Students' privately-owned electronic devices may be subject to search if there is reasonable suspicion that a student is violating Board policies, procedures or school rules, or engaging in other misconduct and that the device may contain relevant evidence. School administrators may confiscate such devices for as long as necessary to complete their investigation.
4. When specific circumstances, for example an IEP or individual health plan, arise, a personal plan may be developed and implemented with administration, appropriate staff, and family.
5. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate policies, rules, or laws, and/or whose conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

Cross Reference: JIH - Questioning and Searches of Students
JICIA - Weapons, Violence, Bullying and School Safety
IJNDB - Student Computer and Internet Use.
IJNDB-R - Student Computer and Internet Use Regulations
JIC – System-Wide Student Code of Conduct
JICK – Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention in Schools

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