Updated

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Electronic Devices
Code	237 PSBA Policy Guide
Status	First Reading
Legal	1. 24 P.S. 510 2. Pol. 103.1 3. Pol. 113 4. Pol. 218 5. Pol. 815 6. Pol. 235 7. Pol. 226 8. Pol. 233

Purpose

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

{x} , while also recognizing that electronic devices may provide a positive contribution when used for educational purposes.

Definition

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record, play or edit audio or video data; store, transmit or receive calls, messages, text, data or images; operate online applications; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.

Authority

[Select this section for general prohibitions of electronic devices and remove italicized section below.]

The Board prohibits use of electronic devices by students during the school day in district buildings; on district property; on district buses and vehicles; and during the time students are under the supervision of the district.[1]

The Board prohibits use of electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time.

Exceptions

The building principal may grant approval for possession and use of an electronic device by a student for the following reasons:

1. Health, safety or emergency reasons.
2. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement.[2][3]
3. Classroom or instructional-related activities, under the supervision of the classroom teacher.
4. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

[Select this italicized section for general authorized use of electronic devices with specific prohibitions and select/modify appropriate option(s) based on rules established by the district; remove section above.]

{x} Authorized Use of Electronic Devices

{ } The Board authorizes use of electronic devices in the classroom, in education-related activities and in approved locations under the supervision of the classroom teacher or staff for educational purposes. All use shall be in compliance with the Code of Student Conduct and Board policy, or as designated in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement.[2][3][4][5]

{ } The Board authorizes silent use of electronic devices by district students during the school day in district buildings, on district property, while students are attending school-sponsored activities and during the times students are under the supervision of the district, when they are in compliance with this policy, other Board policies, administrative regulations and rules, so long as such use does not interfere with the students' educational requirements, responsibilities, duties, performance, the rights and education of others, and the operation and services of the district.[4][5][6]

{ } Students may use their personal electronic devices, in accordance with Board policy, only with written parental consent on a form provided by the district.

{x} Building principals, in consultation with the Superintendent and in compliance with Board policy, administrative regulations and rules, are authorized to determine the extent of the use of electronic devices within their buildings and programs, on district property, and/or while students are attending school-sponsored activities. Use of electronic devices at the elementary level may be different than at the middle school and/or high school levels or may be different between programs. Building principals shall establish rules and notify students, staff and parents/guardians of all applicable rules for use of electronic devices within their buildings and programs.

{x} The Board directs that electronic devices may be used in authorized areas or as determined by the building principal as follows:

1. *For educational or instructional purposes, as determined and supervised by the classroom teacher.*
2. *Before and after school, in the cafeteria at lunchtime, in the hallways during the passing of classes, on the bus or other vehicles if authorized by the driver, and in the library and study hall if authorized by the classroom teacher.*
3. *When the educational, safety, emergency, medical or security use of the electronic device is approved by the building principal or designee, or the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 team. In such cases, the student's use must be supervised by a classroom teacher or district staff.[2][3]*

The Board prohibits use of electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time.

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device.

Electronic Images and Photographs - Not on current Policy

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 and emailing.

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

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and

{x} may

{ } shall

result in confiscation of the electronic device.[4][7][8]

{x} The confiscated item shall not be returned until a phone call/face-to-face conference has been held with a parent/guardian.

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