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Students

USE OF PRIVATE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES BY STUDENTS

The Board of Education (Board) is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive learning environment for its students. In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, student use and possession of cellular telephones and other privately owned technology devices shall be subject to the limitations set forth in this policy and any applicable administrative regulations as may be developed by the Superintendent of Schools.

There is a growing body of evidence that suggests student access to cellular telephones and other electronic communication devices may be detrimental to student emotional wellbeing and academic growth. Therefore, the use of electronic communication devices and other such technology at school is considered a privilege, not a right.

Students may possess cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices on school property and school-sponsored transportation, provided students adhere to the restrictions contained within this policy. Any unauthorized use of cellular telephones and other devices is prohibited.

Definitions

Board Technology Resources

For the purposes of this policy, “Board Technology Resources” refers to the Board’s computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources owned and/or used by the school district and accessible by students.

Privately Owned Technological Devices

For the purposes of this policy, “Privately Owned Technological Devices” refers to privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing, etc. These devices may include, but are not limited to, personal laptops, Smartphones, network access devices, Kindles, Nooks, cellular telephones, radios, personal audio players, iPads or other tablet computers, walkie-talkies, Blackberries, personal data assistants, iPhones, Androids, other electronic signaling devices, headphones, earbuds, and AI smart glasses

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Use of Privately-Owned Technological Devices

Preschool & Elementary School Students

Preschool and elementary school students may possess cellular telephones and other privately-owned technological devices on school property provided such devices are not visible, used, or activated, and are kept in the “off” position throughout the instructional school day. Students must keep their cellular phones and other devices stored in a non-visible secure location during the instructional school day.

Middle and High School Students

Students may bring cell phones and other privately-owned technological devices to school, to be used in non-classroom areas as approved by the Superintendent of Schools and building administration.

The use of cellular telephones and other privately-owned devices is prohibited during instructional time. Cell phones and other privately-owned technological devices, as identified under this policy, shall be:

- a. Secured in a locker during the school day or
- b. Placed in an assigned, safe location, in a classroom, as determined by the classroom teacher or
- c. Turned off and out of sight during instructional time

Adult Education Students

Students may bring cell phones and other privately-owned technological devices the adult education program to be used during instructional time, as directed by the adult education staff.

Approved Uses

In accordance with this policy, students may be granted permission to use privately-owned technological devices in specific situations. This may include:

IEP, 504, or Health Care/Medical Plan

Students may use cellular phones, wireless communication devices, and other electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care/Medical Plan with supportive documentation from the student’s physician. Permission for use of a privately owned device for medical reasons shall be granted by a school-based health professional and documented to building administration and instructional staff without disclosing confidential medical

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information.

School Trips or School-Sponsored Activities

The use, display, or activation of cellular phones or other wireless communication devices during school trips or school-sponsored activities shall be at the discretion of the principal or designee but shall not be disruptive to the activity.

A teacher may grant permission for the use of cell phones/private owned devices on an individual, case-by-case basis, or as aligned to curricular objectives to teaching units.

Improper Use

The use of any such device for an improper purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to Board technology resources;
- Damaging Board technology resources; Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene or contains pornography;
- Cyberbullying;
- Using such device to violate any school rule, including the unauthorized recording (photographic, video, or audio) of another individual without the permission of the individual or a school staff member; or
- Taking any action prohibited by any Federal or State law.

Search of Privately Owned Technological Devices

A student's privately owned technological device may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Any such search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. If the Superintendent or their designee determines that a search of a student's privately owned device is warranted, parents/guardians shall be notified, and the police shall be contacted to conduct the search in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

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Responsibility for Privately Owned Technological Devices

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their privately owned technological devices. If a privately owned technology device is stolen, lost, or damaged, a report should be made to the building principal, who will investigate the loss in a manner consistent with procedures for stolen or damaged personal property. Students and parents should be aware that the Board is not liable for any privately-owned technological device that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school or during a school-sponsored activity. For that reason, students are advised not to share or loan their privately-owned technological devices with other students.

Disciplinary Action

Misuse of the Board's technology resources and/or the use of privately-owned technological devices to access or utilize the Board's technology resources in an inappropriate manner or the use of such devices in any manner inconsistent with this policy will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. For students, a violation of this policy may result in loss of access privileges, a prohibition on the use and/or possession of privately-owned technological devices on school property or at school-sponsored activities, and/or suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Board's policies related to student discipline.

Access to Board Technology Resources

It is the policy of the New London Public Schools Board of Education to permit students, using their privately owned technology devices, to access the Board's computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources used by the school district and accessible by students. Additionally, it is the expectation of the Board of Education that students who access these resources while using privately-owned technology devices will act at all times appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws.

Through the publication and dissemination of this policy statement and others related to use of the Board's computer systems, as well as other instructional means, the Board educates students about the Board's expectations for technology users.

The Board technology resources shall only be used to access educational information and to promote learning activities both at home and at school. The Board considers access to its technology resources to be a privilege and not a right. Students are expected to act at all times appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws when using the Board technology resources. Failure to do so will result in the consequences outlined herein and

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Access to Board Technology Resources (cont.)

in other applicable policies (including, but not limited to, the Safe School Climate Plan, the Student Discipline Policy and the Use of Computers Policy).

Students must abide by the procedures outlined in this policy and all policies and applicable regulations outlined in the Board's computer use and other applicable policies. Students will be given specific information for log-on and access procedures for using school accounts. No user may deviate from these log-on/access procedures. **Students are advised that the Board's network administrators have the capability to identify users and to monitor all privately-owned technological devices while they are logged on to the network.** Students must understand that the Board has reserved the right to conduct monitoring of Board technology resources and can do so *despite* the assignment to individual users of passwords for system security. Any password systems implemented by the Board are designed solely to provide system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user. The system's security aspects, message delete function and personal passwords can be bypassed for monitoring purposes. Therefore, students should be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of privately owned technological devices to access Board technology resources. This provision applies to any and all uses of the Board's technology resources and any privately-owned technological devices that access the same.

Harm to Board Technology Resources

Any act by a student using a privately-owned technological device that harms the Board's technology resources or otherwise interferes with or compromises the integrity of Board technology resources will be considered vandalism and will be subject to discipline and/or appropriate criminal or civil action.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233j

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a-250, *et seq.*

Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986, Public Law 99-508, codified at 28 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520