

UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A. Purpose

The District is committed to providing students with a learning environment free from disruptions. Use of personal communication devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, other communication devices, smartwatches, etc.) for nonacademic means often leads to disruptions in the learning environment for both individual students and the classroom.

For the purposes of this policy, a personal communication device is defined as any non-district provided internet/cellular-capable device that can support voice or video calls, texts, emails, or instant messages. Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to cell phones, tablets, laptops, smartwatches, and any other wireless or Bluetooth connected devices. For ease of reference, devices provided by the district for instructional use shall be referred to as "district-owned" or "district-provided" devices.

B. Restrictions

Student use of personal communication devices is **strictly prohibited** from when the first bell rings to start instructional time until the dismissal bell rings to end the academic school day (referred to as "the school day"). The school day includes lunch periods, passing time, recesses, and field trips.

Students participating in extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities or other activities outside of the school shall abide by the rules and consequences established for personal communication devices set by the coach, instructor, sponsor or other designated supervisor for the activity. However, **in no event** shall personal communication devices (or any other device with photographic or recording capabilities) be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other location where such use could violate another person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

If digital devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom, the District is responsible for providing District-owned devices.

While it is best practice that these devices are not brought to school, if these devices are brought to school, they shall be kept with the power turned off in a student's assigned locker, backpack, or handbag. The District will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any electronic communication device brought to the school.

C. Exceptions

Students with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or disabilities that require a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or a multilingual student with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall be exempt from this policy. Additionally, the superintendent or their designee may approve additional exceptions on a case-by-case basis or through an administrative decision recorded in the student handbook, with respect to student medical, disability, or language proficiency needs.

D. Consequences and Violations

Consequences for violations of this policy will be pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally:

1. First Offense: Warning and confiscation of the device for the remainder of the school day and parents/guardian will be notified.
2. Second Offense: The personal communication device will be confiscated. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and must pick up the device from the principal or superintendent's office.
3. Subsequent Offenses: The personal communication device will be confiscated. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and must pick up the device from the principal or superintendent's office. The Code of Conduct will be implemented up to and including the student not being allowed to bring personal communication device to school.

E. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

F. Dissemination

The Superintendent shall ensure that information regarding the prohibition against using personal communication devices during the school day is included in all student handbooks, and included in "beginning of school year" materials provided to parents/guardians.

Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

NH Statutes

RSA 189-1-a, V
 RSA 189:68
 RSA 189:68-a
 RSA 189:70
 RSA 644:21

Description

Duty to Provide Education
Student Privacy
Student Online Personal Information
Educational Institution Policies on Social Media
Searches of Portable Electronic Devices

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