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Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Electronic Devices
Code	216
Status	Active
Adopted	July 25, 2018
Revised	_____, 2025

**Purpose**

~~The Board recognizes that the use of electronic devices within the classroom can serve legitimate instructional purposes. However, under many circumstances such items serve as a distraction from the educational process and can be used by students to engage in inappropriate activities. adopts this Policy to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure for District students and employees.~~

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**Definitions**

~~**Electronic devices** shall include all devices that can take photographs; record or store audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages, images or data; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet. Examples of electronic devices include, but shall not be limited to, cellular telephones, smartphones (e.g. iPhones and Android devices; telephone paging devices/beepers; global positioning system (GPS) devices; laptop computers; portable game units; mp3 players; personal digital assistants (PDAs); digital cameras; tablet personal computers (e.g. iPads), as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities.~~

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~~The **school-based Discipline Committee** is a school-level group convened under the leadership of the school principal at least once per month to review available discipline data and discuss strengths and weaknesses of the school's disciplinary climate. The Discipline Committee in each school may consist of school personnel from the following areas, and all employee groups must be given the opportunity to be represented: principal chairperson, teachers, support personnel, assistant principal, paraprofessional, custodial staff, security, cafeteria staff, activities director, and/or bus coordinator.~~

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~~**School day** as used in this policy shall mean the time during which students are in attendance at school, including on the school bus, while traveling from home to school and school to home, on school field trips, or other school-related activities which occur during typical school hours.~~

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~~**District Property** as used in this policy shall mean District property; in or on the grounds of District buildings; in District buses or vehicles; during all times outside of District property while under supervision of the District, including but not limited to locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites or changing areas of any location.~~

Commented [ES1]: Created new definition of "District Property" for use in policy. Please review and advise of any proposed revisions.

**Authority**

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**Use of Electronic Devices**

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~~The Board generally prohibits the use and possession of electronic devices by students from being visible, used, or turned on by students during the school day in any District Property District buildings and on District property, subject to the specific Board-approved exceptions and guidelines contained herein. [1]~~

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~~Students may bring cell phones or electronic devices to school, if necessary, but must turn them in to school personnel while school is in session.~~

Commented [ES2]: Discussion points: Should schools hold phones? Honor system or turn into teachers? How to monitor? Cost of purchase/rental of phones bags?

~~The Board grants school-based Discipline Committees the discretion to adopt school-level electronic device restrictions, so long as the school has identified a legitimate educational interest for the restriction, and prior written notice has been issued to students and parents/guardians. Before establishing a school-level electronic device restriction, the school-based Discipline Committee must:~~

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- ~~1. Schools Serving Students in PreK through 5th Grade:~~

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Request input regarding the proposed restriction from the Parent School Community Council (PSCC), verbally and in writing;

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Obtain approval of the assigned Assistant Superintendent; and

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Develop a proposed communication plan for notifying students and parents/guardians of the restriction.

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2. Schools Serving Students in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Above:

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Request input regarding the proposed restriction from the PSCC and student advisors, verbally and in writing;

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Obtain approval of the assigned Assistant Superintendent; and

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Develop a proposed communication plan for notifying students and parents/guardians of the restriction.

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The school principal shall cause the Board of School Directors to be notified upon adoption of any school-level electronic device restrictions.

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The Board prohibits the possession of laser pointers and attachments and telephone paging devices/beepers by students on school property, on buses and other vehicles provided by the District, and at school-sponsored activities.

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Commented [ES3]: I think we can remove paging devices/beepers as already included in definition of Electronic Devices. I think we should leave the laser pointer because of the expansion to school sponsored activities, (ex. Sports games).

Electronic Images and Photographs

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The Board prohibits any student, on School Property at any time, from 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.

The Board further prohibits any student, during the School Day, from taking, storing, disseminating, transferring viewing or sharing any photograph, image or video of any person on School Property.

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.

Such prohibited activity shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property if:

- 1. There is a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the students' attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.
2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.
3. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, such as an agreement made on school property to complete a transaction outside of school that would violate the Code of Student Conduct.

Violations

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Violations of this policy or any properly established school-based electronic device restriction by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the electronic device.

Commented [ES4]: Discussion point around violations and consequence.

The District shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device brought to school by a student. The District reserves its right to disclaim liability for the loss, damage or misuse of an electronic device that is confiscated due to a violation of this policy or any properly established school-based electronic device restriction.

Delegation of Responsibility

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The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the District's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

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Commented [ES5]: Where would Admin like to post this policy? Website? Student handbook?

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made as identified in applicable administrative regulations.

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Guidelines

Exceptions to General Prohibition

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

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1. Health, safety or emergency reasons.
2. As required by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.[3]
3. Approved classroom or instructional-related activities.
4. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

4. Laptop Computers/Personal Digital Assistants

Laptop computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) brought to school shall be restricted to classroom or instructional-related activities. Students shall comply with the guidelines set by the classroom teacher or school officials for the educational use of laptop computers and PDAs.

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Telephone Pagers/Beepers

With prior administrative approval, the telephone paging device/beeper prohibition shall not apply in the following cases[2]:

1. A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.
2. A student who has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.
3. Other reasons determined appropriate by the school principal.

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~~AR Removed. Content Now Included in Policy~~

- Legal
1. [24 P.S. 510](#)
  2. [24 P.S. 1317.1](#)
  3. Pol. 108

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4. Pol. 119
5. Pol. 212~~8~~
6. Pol. 232
7. Pol. 813.1