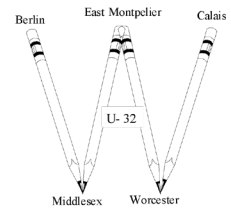


Washington Central Unified Union School District

WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.

1130 Gallison Hill Road
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone (802) 229-0553
Fax (802) 229-2761



WCUUSD
Policy Committee Agenda
December 3, 2025
4:45-6:00 PM
Berlin Elementary
372 Paine Turnpike N
Berlin, VT
(In-Person & Virtual)

Virtual Meeting Information

<https://tinyurl.com/48ja9wnr>

Meeting ID: 829 9218 0624

Password: 778549

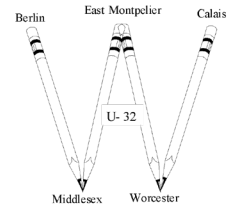
Dial by Your Location: 1-929-205-6099

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes of 11.5.25-pg. 2
3. Review [Policy Workplan](#)
4. Policies for Review (Discussion/Action)
 - 4.1. AI Policy
 - 4.1.1. [Draft Policy](#)
 - 4.1.2. [New Haven Draft Policy](#)
 - 4.1.3. [Sample Resolution](#)
 - 4.2. C9 Nutrition and Wellness (replaces C50 Comprehensive Sexual Health Services) – pg. 5
 - 4.3. Draft AOE Policies and Guidance for feedback:
 - 4.3.1. B8 Electronic Communication – pg. 9
 - 4.3.2. Cellphone Policy – pg. 16
 - 4.3.3. Social Media Guidance – pg. 18
5. Public Comments
6. Future Agenda Items
 - 6.1. Next Meeting: January 7, 2026
7. Adjourn

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Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone (802) 229-0553
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WCUUSD
Policy Committee
November 5, 2025
4:45-6:00 PM

Present: Superintendent Dellinger-Pate, Chris McVeigh, Ursula Stanley, Amy Molina, Amelia Contrada, Natasha Eckart

- 1. Call to Order:** Chris McVeigh called the meeting to order at 4:49 p.m.
- 2. Approve Minutes of 10.8.25:** Amelia Contrada moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2025. Seconded by Ursula Stanley. This motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Review Policy Workplan:** There are no changes to this work plan at this time.
- 4. Policies for Review**
 - 4.1. VSBA recommended D23 – (Library selection and review procedures):** Steven Dellinger-Pate introduced this policy draft. He stated that this is a recommended policy and that it aligns with what is already in place regarding library selection of materials. Some discussion followed around keeping two separate policies for library materials and curriculum materials. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate stated that the process will be the same for both (regarding challenging of materials); however the makeup of the groups who consider the challenge etc. may differ as these are two separate things. Difference between challenging the curriculum versus the curriculum materials/ instructional materials, resources used in classroom. The actual curriculum cannot be challenged, according to this policy. The board approves the curriculum. The difference in procedures between the two was discussed. Chris McVeigh stated that the Curriculum Coordinator should be part of the group that considers challenges to curriculum materials. Regarding procedures, are the meetings public? Add language: principal or designee (or superintendent or designee when superintendent is named). Some discussion about if the challenge is related to curriculum, would it be appropriate for the Director of Curriculum to be the designee? Agreement to leave the language “or designee” so that it can be decided on a case-by-case basis. Chris McVeigh referred to legal precedent. The material that is presented as the complaint is

considered the record that will be reviewed. Some discussion of procedural pieces being moved into the body of the policy. Part B in the procedures for D8 (1-6) - Amelia Contrada wondered if this should go into the body of the policy, since this describes and mirrors our values and core beliefs. Ursula asked the committee to consider whether this is consistent with other policies where we have discussed but agreed to not put procedure into the body of the policy. Amelia stated that this section is an exception as it is a sort of framework of our values and beliefs. Stephen Dellinger-Pate suggested checking the policy protecting teachers' rights to civil discourse - he will cross-reference that to see that this is consistent. The committee agreed to make these changes. D23 (first reading) and D8 (second reading) and procedures to the next board meeting.

4.1.1.Challenges and Complaints to School Curriculum Materials

- 4.2. B31 Educator Supervision and Evaluation (policy not required, nor recommended by VSBA):** Superintendent Dellinger-Pate explained that this is not required or recommended by VSBA. The Education Quality Standards address this. (In addition, would trump policy). Chris McVeigh suggested keeping this policy in place but putting into it the Ed Quality Standards. Some discussion about whether it is necessary to have a policy when Ed Quality Standards address the issue. Amelia Contrada asked if there is anything in B31 that differs from Ed Quality Standards. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that they are substantially similar. If we did not have a policy in place, we would have to follow the Ed Quality Rule. Additionally, there is some language in our collective bargaining agreements that address supervision and evaluation. Some discussion about how to share this information widely. Chris McVeigh would like to have it published somewhere. Amelia Contrada clarified - so the agreement is that this policy is redundant.
- 4.3. Animals in School Policy:** (Irvine Admin Regulations, Animals in school information) Superintendent Dellinger-Pate stated that we have no policy or procedures around this, and that animals are brought into our school from time to time. He feels we at least need to have procedures in place for this. He asked the committee whether they feel there should be a policy or are procedures sufficient. Ursula Stanley stated that she does not think this is something for the board to govern, per se, but that she thinks having a procedure in place in wise. Amelia Contrada asked if we know what will happen to our policies when things merge on a larger scale. Superintendent Dellinger-Pate reviewed what happened after Act 46; however, we do not know. Discussion followed around service animals. Ursula Stanley asked what we want to enforce. She noted that federal and state law indicates how to enforce the topic of service animals. The committee discussed therapy animals versus service animals. Amelia Contrada suggested, if there is a state law around therapy animals, then we could create policy. Steven Dellinger-Pate suggested drafting a policy and procedures to bring to the next meeting for the committee to consider. Chris McVeigh stated that we need to address the insurance/ liability issue; he does not believe that simply signing a waiver covers.
- 4.4. C50 Comprehensive Sexual Health Services:** (policy not required, nor recommended by VSBA) Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that C50 was prior to the switch to C9, Local Wellness Policy. He recommends that C50 be rescinded as law, and the policy C9 can stand cover it. Ursula Stanley asked whether the law indicates just condoms or are other barrier methods included. Steven Dellinger-Pate will investigate. Ursula Stanley noted that there is an extensive guide on the AOE website. Chris McVeigh stated that we should not rescind C50 until we have a Wellness Committee in place to implement C9. Rescission should be

contingent upon that happening. Late winter, early spring is when the Committee is expected to be in place. Some discussion followed around expanding the definition to indicate barrier protective methods (which would include condoms).

4.5. C9 Nutrition & Wellness (AOE Recommended Version)

4.6. AI Policy- Tabled for Workgroup to Review

5. Future Agenda Items

5.1. Next Meeting: December 3, 2025

6. Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary

Required

WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Policy

MODEL LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY

POLICY: _____ C9 _____
WARNED: _____
ADOPTED: _____
EFFECTIVE: _____

Adoption notes:

This text box, the disclaimer, and all highlights within the policy should be removed prior to adoption.

The Agency of Education recommends that each board carefully review this model prior to adoption to assure suitability with the district’s own specific circumstances, internal coding system, current policies, and organizational structures. Supervisory Unions/Districts (SU/SDs) may choose to use the following model policy as written or revise it to meet local needs and reflect community priorities.

When developing wellness policies, SU/SDs will need to consider their community’s unique circumstances, challenges, and opportunities. For references to legal and regulatory requirements, resources for evidence- based strategies and other topics, and sample policy language, please refer to the [Vermont Local Wellness Policy Guide](#). A district should check its own current policies to assure internal consistency. Withdrawn and earlier versions of revised policies should be maintained separately as part of the permanent records of the SU/SD.

This model policy will be revised as needed to account for developments in local, state and federal laws, regulations and court decisions, and/or other relevant education activity.

Purpose

It is the intent of the Washington Central Unified Union School District to comply with all applicable federal and state requirements (as outlined in the [Vermont Local Wellness Policy Guide](#), updated October 2023). In accordance with those requirements, this local wellness policy (LWP) (hereafter referred to as “this policy”) has been developed in consultation with parents, students, school food service program/school food authority personnel, physical education and health education teachers, school board members, school administration, members of the public, and school health professionals, which may include school nurses, school counselors, school-based clinicians, school social workers, or behavioral health professionals.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Washington Central Unified Union School District (hereafter referred to as “District”) to establish goals that are developed to promote student wellness and comprehensive health, and include the following goal areas:

1. Nutrition Promotion and Education
2. Nutrition Services/Guidelines for all foods available on school campus
3. Physical Education and Physical Activity
4. Comprehensive Health Education
5. Other school-based activities to promote student wellness

Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

1. Provide nutrition promotion and education programs as required by state law and regulations of the State Board of Education. In particular, the District will provide a nutrition component in its Comprehensive Health Education program and will develop curricular programs intended to accomplish applicable goals enumerated in the Vermont Education Quality Standards.
2. Conduct nutrition promotion and education programs through appropriately licensed staff members.
3. Limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of only those foods and beverages that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards on school campus.
4. Integrate nutrition promotion and education into core curricula in areas such as science and family and consumer science courses, to the extent practicable.

Goals for Nutrition Services/Guidelines for All Foods Available on School Campus

1. Provide adequate space for eating and serving school meals.
2. Provide a clean and safe meal environment for students.
3. Establish meal periods that provide adequate time to eat and are scheduled at appropriate hours.
4. Prohibit the use of food in District schools as a reward or punishment.
5. Provide training opportunities, as appropriate for food service and other staff members, in areas of nutrition and wellness.
6. Make free potable water available to children in meal service areas (for schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast program).
7. Ensure that nutrition services will reference USDA geographic preference rules and seasonal and local agricultural information when planning school meal menus, to the extent practicable.
8. Ensure that guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the United States Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to sections (a) and (b) of section 9A(a) and (b) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act as those regulations and guidance apply to schools.

Nutrition Guidelines

- i. The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs will meet the requirements provided in 7 CFR 210 and 7 CFR 220 (National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Guidelines)
- ii. All foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day will meet the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards.
- iii. District fundraisers that occur during the school day will meet the USDA Smart Snack nutrition standards.
- iv. The District is required to establish nutrition guidelines for all other foods provided, but not sold to students during the school day. Foods provided but not sold may include food that is part of a classroom celebration or provided by parents or community organizations free of charge. [*Districts should choose either 1 or 2 below or write their own guidelines.*]
 - 1) It is the policy of the District that, when feasible, food provided but not sold should be limited to those foods that improve the diet and health of students, help mitigate childhood obesity, and model healthy choices.
 - 2) Food provided but not sold will, at minimum, comply with the Smart Snacks Standards.

Goals for Physical Education and Physical Activity

1. Offer opportunities for students in grades K-12 to participate in at least 30 minutes of physical activity within or outside of the school day. Physical activity may include recess and movement built into the curriculum but does not replace physical education classes.
2. Ensure that physical education is designed to enable all students, including those who may need adapted physical education, to engage annually in rigorous, relevant, and comprehensive learning opportunities that allow them to demonstrate proficiency in physical education.
3. Ensure that educator licensure, professional development, and staff and program evaluation complies with state laws and regulations.

Goals for Comprehensive Health Education

1. Ensure the development and delivery of comprehensive health education as required by state law (currently 16 V.S.A. §131, 16 V.S.A. §906(3), 16 V.S.A. §909) and Education Quality Standards Rules (Series 2000), Pupils Rules (Series 4000 as specified), and in coordination with expectations delineated in 16 V.S.A §131 and §132.
2. Consider the promotion and integration of health education throughout the school day and within various curriculum areas in addition to health education courses. This will be done to the extent practicable, under the supervision of the superintendent or designee, and aligned with state rules and standards.
3. Ensure that educator licensure, professional development, and staff and program evaluation complies with state laws and regulations.

Other School-based Activities to Promote Student Wellness

Implementation of Condom Availability

- A. As part of a comprehensive sexual health program, the school district shall make condoms available at U-32 Middle/High School grades 7-12 from school nurses, health educators and other personnel as deemed appropriate by administration.
- B. The district shall provide information about proper condom use that is inclusive of all students. This information shall be created or approved by the district's school health advisory committee or other appropriate school-community planning group.
- C. Barrier methods will be made available provided funding from community partners exists.

This section cannot be left blank.

The district may comply with the federal requirement for an "Other" goal through compliance with state level requirements, as established in [Act 66](#) of 2021 and reflected in [16 V.S.A. § 136](#), for setting goals specific to the implementation of Comprehensive Health Education. SU/SDs, however, are not precluded from adding to their local wellness policy other goals and may choose to incorporate other initiatives or requirements (e.g., suicide prevention, employee wellness, health services, etc.) into a local wellness policy (see "Other School-based Activities to Promote Wellness" in [Vermont Local Wellness Policy Guide](#)). Decisions to include additional LWP goals would be made at the local level and attention would need to be given to discrepancies between model policies and local SU/SD policies.

Policy Development, Implementation, and Assessment

Administrative Responsibilities

The superintendent or designee will:

1. Convene a local wellness team that includes parents, students, school food service program personnel, physical education and health education teachers, school board members, school administration, members of the public, and school health professionals, which may include school nurses, school counselors, school-based clinicians, school social workers or behavioral health professionals.
2. Periodically monitor District programs and curriculum to ensure compliance with this policy and any administrative procedures established to carry out the requirements of this policy.
3. Provide a report at least annually to the board and to the public on the District's compliance with law and policies related to student wellness and the school nutrition environment. The report shall include information as to the content and implementation of this policy, and an assurance that District guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools in accordance with federal law.
4. Assist in ensuring compliance with the District's LWP, including goals for all required components, and that evidence-based strategies have been reviewed and considered in the development of those goals.
5. Be responsible for ensuring that the District complies with applicable state law and regulations governing the provision of and access to physical activity, physical education, and comprehensive health education as set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 136, 16 V.S.A. § 906, 16 V.S.A. § 941, and Education Quality Standard Rules (Series 2000).
6. Be responsible for ensuring that schools identify, near or at the beginning of serving lines, what foods constitute unit-priced reimbursable meals.
7. Be responsible for ensuring that the District complies with any Administrative Review procedures of the State Educational Agency.

Develop a plan to respond to a parent's signed statement that the teaching of disease, its symptoms, development, and treatment, conflicts with the parents' religious convictions. In the case of a student exemption from such instruction, the exempted student shall not be penalized by reason of that exemption. **Parental Requests - Any pupil whose parent/guardian shall present to the school principal a signed statement that the teaching of sexual health education conflicts with the parents' religious convictions shall be exempt from such instruction, and no child so exempt shall be penalized by reason of that exemption. (V.S.A. 16 § 134)**

Required

**WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Directors' Policy

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN
EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS**

POLICY: **B8**

WARNED: **11/13/21**

ADOPTED: **11.17.21**

EFFECTIVE: **11.17.21**

I. Statement of Policy

The Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) recognizes electronic communications, and the use of social media outlets create new options for extending and enhancing the educational program of the school district. Electronic communications and the use of social media can help students and employees communicate regarding: questions during non-school hours regarding homework or other assignments; scheduling issues for school-related co-curricular and interscholastic athletic activities; school work to be completed during a student's extended absence; distance learning opportunities; and other professional communications that can enhance teaching and learning opportunities between employees and students. However, the WCUUSD recognizes employees and students can be vulnerable in electronic communications.

In accordance with Act 5 of 2018 this model policy is adopted to provide guidance and direction to WCUUSD employees to prevent improper electronic communications between employees and students.

II. Definitions. For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. **Electronic communication.** Electronic communication is any computer-mediated communication in which individuals exchange messages with others, either individually or in groups. Examples of electronic communication include, but are not limited to, email, text messages, instant messaging, voicemail, and image sharing and communications made by means of an internet site, including social media and social networking websites.
- B. **Social media.** Social media is any form of online publication or presence that allows interactive communication, including, but not limited to, social networks, blogs, websites and internet forums. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Google+.
- C. **Employee.** Employee includes any person employed directly by or retained through a contract of employment the district, an agent of the school, a school board member, and including school district employees.
- D. **Student.** Student means any person who attends school in any of the grades Prekindergarten through 12 operated by the district.

III. Policy on Electronic Communication Between Students and Employees.

All communication between employees and students shall be professional and appropriate. The use of electronic communication that is inappropriate in content is prohibited.

A. Inappropriate content of an electronic communication. Inappropriate content of an electronic communication between an Employee and a Student includes, but is not limited to:

1. Communications of a sexual nature, sexual oriented humor or language, sexual advances, or content with a sexual overtone;
2. Communications involving the use, encouraging the use, or promoting or advocating the use of alcohol or tobacco, the illegal use of prescription drugs or controlled dangerous substances, illegal gambling, or other illegal activities;
3. Communications regarding the employees' or student's past, current or future romantic relationships;
4. Communications which include the use of profanities, obscene language, lewd comments, or pornography;
5. Communications that are harassing, intimidating, or demeaning;
6. Communications requesting or trying to establish a personal relationship with a student beyond the employees' professional responsibilities;
7. Communications related to personal or confidential information regarding employee or student that isn't academically focused; and
8. Communications between an employee and a student between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. An Employee may, however, make public posts to a social network site, blog or similar application at any time.

B. Procedures. The superintendent shall develop procedures for both the receipt and handling of reports filed under this policy (see IV.A. and B. below).

IV. Enforcement Responsibilities

A. Student communications violation of this policy. In the event a student sends an electronic communication, that is inappropriate as defined in this policy or that violates the procedures governing inappropriate forms of electronic communication to an employee, the employee shall submit a written report of the inappropriate communication ("Report") to the principal or designee by the end of the next school day following actual receipt by the Employee of such communication. The principal or designee will take appropriate action to have the student discontinue such improper electronic communications.

While the school district will seek to use such improper electronic communications by a student as a teaching and learning opportunity, student communications that violate this policy may subject a student to discipline. Any discipline imposed shall take into account the relevant surrounding facts and circumstances.

B. Employee communications violation of this policy. In the event an employee sends an electronic communication that is inappropriate as defined in this policy or that violates the procedures governing inappropriate forms of electronic communication to a student, the student or the student's parent or guardian should promptly submit a written report of the inappropriate communication ("Report") to the principal and/or the person designated by the principal to receive complaints under this policy. The report shall specify what type of

inappropriate communication was sent by the employee with a copy of the communication, if possible.

Inappropriate electronic communications or retaliation by an employee may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

C. **Applicability.** The provisions of this policy shall be applicable at all times while the employee is employed by the district and at all times the student is enrolled in the school district, including holiday and summer breaks. An employee is not subject to these provisions to the extent the employee has a family relationship with a student (i.e. parent/child, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, etc.).

D. **Other district policies.** Improper electronic communications that may also constitute violations of other policies of the district, i.e. unwelcome sexual conduct may also constitute a violation of the school’s separate policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students and Prevention of Sexual Harassment Title IX. Complaints regarding such behavior should be directed as set forth in the school’s Procedures on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students.

V. Reporting to Other Agencies

A. **Reports to Department of Children and Families [DCF].** When behaviors violative of this policy include allegations of child abuse, any person responsible for reporting suspected child abuse under 33 V.S.A. §4911, *et seq.*, must report the allegations to the Commissioner of DCF. If the victim is over the age of 18 and a report of abuse is warranted, the report shall be made to Adult Protective Services in accordance with 33 V.S.A. §6901 *et seq.*

B. **Reports to Vermont Agency of Education [AOE].** Accordingly, if behaviors violative of this policy in a public school involve conduct by a licensed educator that might be grounds under Vermont law for licensing action, the principal shall report the alleged conduct to the superintendent and the superintendent shall report the alleged conduct to the AOE.

C. **Reporting Incidents to the Police.** Nothing in this policy shall preclude persons from reporting to law enforcement any incidents and/or conduct that may be a criminal act.

D. **Continuing Obligation to Investigate.** Reports made to either DCF or law enforcement shall not be considered to absolve the school administrators of their obligations under this or any other policy, such as the Policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying, to pursue and complete an investigation upon receipt of notice of conduct which may constitute a policy violation.

<i>Legal Reference(s):</i>	2018 Acts and Resolves No. 5 (located at https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2018.1/Docs/ACTS/ACT005/ACT005%20As%20Enacted.pdf)
	16 V.S.A. § 1698
	16 V.S.A. § 570

CODE B8
(Required Policy)

Printer Friendly Versions:

- [Word](#)
- [Acrobat](#)

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

I. Statement of Policy

The [INSERT SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME] recognizes electronic communications and the use of social media outlets create new options for extending and enhancing the educational program of the school district. Electronic communications and the use of social media can help students and employees communicate regarding: questions during non-school hours regarding homework or other assignments; scheduling issues for school-related co-curricular and interscholastic athletic activities; school work to be completed during a student's extended absence; distance learning opportunities; and other professional communications that can enhance teaching and learning opportunities between employees and students. However, the [INSERT SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME] recognizes employees and students can be vulnerable in electronic communications.

In accordance with Act 5 of 2018 this model policy is adopted to provide guidance and direction to [INSERT SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME] employees to prevent improper electronic communications between employees and students.

II. Definitions. For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. **Electronic communication.** Electronic communication is any computer-mediated, tablet, or phone mediated communication in which individuals exchange messages with others, either individually or in groups. Examples of electronic communication include, but are not limited to, email, text messages, instant messaging, direct messaging, voicemail, and image sharing and communications made by means of an internet site, including social media and social networking websites.
- B. **Social media.** Social media is any form of online publication or presence that allows interactive communication, including, but not limited to, social networks, blogs, websites and internet forums. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Tik Tok, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, and Google+.
- C. **Employee.** Employee includes any person employed directly by or retained through a contract of employment the district, an agent of the school, a school board member, and including supervisory union employees.

D. **Student.** Student means any person who attends school in any of the grades Prekindergarten through 12 operated by the district.

III. Policy on Electronic Communication Between Students and Employees.

All communication between employees and students shall be professional and appropriate. The use of electronic communication that is inappropriate in content is prohibited.

A. Inappropriate content of an electronic communication. Inappropriate content of an electronic communication between an Employee and a Student includes, but is not limited to:

1. Communications of a sexual nature, sexual oriented humor or language, sexual advances, or content with a sexual overtone;
2. Communications involving the use, encouraging the use, or promoting or advocating the use of alcohol or tobacco, the illegal use of prescription drugs or controlled dangerous substances, illegal gambling, or other illegal activities;
3. Communications regarding the employees' or student's past or current romantic relationships;
4. Communications which include the use of profanities, obscene language, lewd comments, or pornography;
5. Communications that are harassing, intimidating, or demeaning;
6. Communications requesting or trying to establish a personal relationship with a student beyond the employees' professional responsibilities;
7. Communications related to personal or confidential information regarding employee or student that isn't academically focused; and
8. Communications between an employee and a student between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. An Employee may, however, make public posts to a social network site, blog or similar application at any time.

B. Procedures. The superintendent shall develop procedures for both the receipt and handling of reports filed under this policy (see IV.A. and B. below).

IV. Enforcement Responsibilities

A. Student communications violation of this policy. In the event a student sends an electronic communication, that is inappropriate as defined in this policy or that violates the procedures governing inappropriate forms of electronic communication to an employee, the employee shall submit a written report of the inappropriate communication ("Report") to the principal or designee by the end of the next school day following actual receipt by the Employee of such communication. The principal or designee will take appropriate action to have the student discontinue such improper electronic communications.

While the school district will seek to use such improper electronic communications by a student as a teaching and learning opportunity, student communications violation of this policy may subject a student to discipline. Any discipline imposed shall take into account the relevant surrounding facts and circumstances.

- B. **Employee communications violation of this policy.** In the event an employee sends an electronic communication that is inappropriate as defined in this policy or that violates the procedures governing inappropriate forms of electronic communication to a student, the student shall or the student's parent or guardian may submit a written report of the inappropriate communication ("Report") to the principal and/or the person designated by the principal to receive complaints under this policy promptly. The report shall specify what type of inappropriate communication was sent by the employee with a copy of the communication, if possible.

Inappropriate electronic communications by an employee may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

- C. **Applicability.** The provisions of this policy shall be applicable at all times while the employee is employed by the district and at all times the student is enrolled in the school district, including holiday and summer breaks. An employee is not subject to these provisions to the extent the employee has a family relationship with a student (i.e. parent/child, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, etc.).
- D. **Other district policies.** Improper electronic communications that may also constitute violations of other policies of the district, i.e. unwelcome sexual conduct may also constitute a violation of the school's separate policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students. Complaints regarding such behavior should be directed as set forth in the school's Procedures on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students.

V. Reporting to Other Agencies

- A. **Reports to Department of Children and Families [DCF].** When behaviors violative of this policy include allegations of child abuse, any person responsible for reporting suspected child abuse under 33 V.S.A. §4911, et seq., must report the allegations to the Commissioner of DCF. If the victim is over the age of 18 and a report of abuse is warranted, the report shall be made to Adult Protective Services in accordance with 33 V.S.A. §6901 et seq.
- B. **Reports to Vermont Agency of Education [AOE].** Accordingly, if behaviors violative of this policy in a public school involve conduct by a licensed educator that might be grounds under Vermont law for licensing action, the principal shall

report the alleged conduct to the superintendent and the superintendent shall report the alleged conduct to the AOE.

- C. **Reporting Incidents to the Police.** Nothing in this policy shall preclude persons from reporting to law enforcement any incidents and/or conduct that may be a criminal act.

- D. **Continuing Obligation to Investigate.** Reports made to either DCF or law enforcement shall not be considered to absolve the school administrators of their obligations under this or any other policy, such as the Policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying, to pursue and complete an investigation upon receipt of notice of conduct which may constitute a policy violation.

Date Warned:

Date Adopted:

Legal Reference(s): 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 5 (located at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2018.1/Docs/ACTS/ACT005/ACT005%20As%20Enacted.pdf>)
16 V.S.A. § 1698
16 V.S.A. § 570

DRAFT Model Policy on Student Use of Cellphones

Statement of Policy

Pursuant to [Act 72 of 2025](#), it is the policy of [*name of school district or independent school*] to provide all students with access to the benefits of a phone and social media-free school environment, which promotes focus, improved mental health, and increased social cohesion.

Definitions

1. **“Cell phone”** means any device capable of using cellular technology to facilitate voice service through a commercial telecommunications company, regardless of whether the device can access internet services and electronic mail.
2. **“Other prohibited device”** means any non-school-issued personal electronic device that connects to cellular networks, the internet, or has wireless capabilities.
3. **“Individualized health care plan”** means a written document developed by a school nurse, in collaboration with parents, students, and other relevant professionals, to outline specific health care needs and management strategies tailored to the unique health condition of a student.
4. **“Parent”** means a parent of a student and includes legal guardians who are legally authorized to make education decisions for the student.
5. **“School”** means any public school, approved independent school, or career and technical education center located in Vermont.
6. **“Student”** means an individual currently enrolled in or registered at a school located in Vermont, as defined in (4)

Adoption and Implementation

Each school board shall:

1. Develop a student cell phone and personal electronic device use policy
2. Adopt a student cell phone policy for the beginning of the 2026-27 school year
3. Ensure the enforcement of said policy
4. Make available the policy in the manner described in [16 V.S.A. § 563\(1\)](#).

“Bell to Bell” Policy

The goal of [*insert school district’s/independent school’s*] policy is to prohibit student use of cell phones and other prohibited devices during the academic day from arrival to dismissal, meaning [*hours inserted here*] and enable both

students and teachers to work free of distractions that impact learning. Cell phones may be accessed after dismissal at *[time inserted]*. *(If a uniform storage option is provided district-wide please describe how students will surrender and retrieve their cell phones to these secure locations, or reference a procedure that is documented elsewhere, such as the student handbook.)*

Circumstances for Use

No student will be prohibited from possessing or using a cell phone if they:

5. Require a cell phone/electronic device as part of their individualized health care plan, individualized education program, or 504 plan, which shall be documented according to applicable State and federal law (or in a manner that the school deems appropriate);
 - a. Have been allowed by an administrator for an academic, school-sponsored athletic, or cocurricular purpose, for the most limited use reasonably possible;
 - b. Require a device for compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431–11435.

Family and Guardian Communication During the School Day

During the academic day *[hours inserted here]*, parents/guardians may contact the school's main office *[or insert preferred location]* when communicating important messages from home. Students may request permission to use the phone in the main office to call home. Parents/guardians may leave messages that will be delivered to students during non-academic time. For messages that are urgent/time-sensitive, students and families will be notified immediately.

Enforcement Actions

Students who are found using phones in violation of this policy without permission will be asked to give the phone to a teacher or administrator to be picked up by the student at the end of the day. The second time this occurs, the phone must be picked up by a parent/guardian in the main office. The third time, there will be a meeting with the administration to create a personal cell phone/device contract *[or insert corresponding local discipline procedures]*.

DRAFT Act 72 Social Media Guidance

Act 72 Section 17 Summary

Under [Section 17 of Act 72](#) school districts and supervisory unions cannot:

1. Use social media to talk directly with students unless the school district or independent school has approved the platform. If the platform is approved, it must let school officials save all messages and stop messages from being changed or deleted after they're sent.
2. Require students to use social media for homework, school sports, clubs, or any other school activities that happen outside of regular school hours.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What platforms are considered "approved" for communicating with students?**

Please consult your local school board/education leaders to understand which platforms are approved in your school district or supervisory union, as this may differ from district to district.

- **Can I still use platforms like Google Classroom or YouTube, or are they considered social media?**

If these platforms have been explicitly approved by your school district or supervisory union, you may continue to use them to communicate with students.

- **Can I still communicate with parents and my school community via outlets such as Facebook and Instagram?**

Yes, Act 72 only applies to communication between schools and students.

- **Can I have students relay information via social media on my behalf (e.g., a team captain sharing scheduling changes via Snapchat)?**

Act 72 does not prohibit students from communicating with each other via social media. However, the spirit and intention of the law is to reduce inequities and encourage social cohesion. If possible, please refrain from asking students to rely on social media for communication purposes.