



Title: **Electronic Devices**

Code: 237

Book: Policy Manual

Section: 200 Pupils

Purpose

The possession and use of laser pointers, pagers/beepers, cellular phones, or other electronic devices by district employees, where supportive of the education program and general welfare of the students is permitted. However, the possession of said device by students, for reasons other than medical necessity, has been found to be disruptive to the educational process, and is prohibited as set forth in this policy.

Authority

The Board prohibits **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.[\[1\]](#)

The Board further prohibits **use of** personal communication devices by students during the school day in district buildings, on district property, and while students are attending school-sponsored activities during regular school hours.[\[2\]](#)

Students may transport cellular phones to and from school, provided they adhere to the following:

1. The cellular phone must be turned off during school hours.

2. The cellular phone must be properly stored during hours within the student's assigned locker or other area designated by the school principal. At no time will they be visible.
3. The cellular phone must remain off during a school evacuation.

In an effort to accommodate students involved in various after-school activities, possession of a cellular phone will be permitted under the following conditions:

1. The cellular phone must remain off during the after-school activity.
2. The cellular phone may be turned on and used when authorized by the activity advisor or coach.

The Board prohibits use of cellular telephones that have the capability to take photographs or record audio or video during the school day in district buildings, on district property and while students are engaged in any school-sponsored activities at any time.[\[3\]](#)

Any Internet connection must be via the district computers and network, and must be authorized as described in policy 815. The use of any personal or non-district device that has the capability of network or Internet connection is prohibited.[\[4\]](#)

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic devices brought to school by a student.

Delegation of Responsibility

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.

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior approval of the building principal or designee, or when use is provided for in a student's individualized education program (IEP).[5]

Guidelines

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the electronic device.[6][7]

Unauthorized electronic devices will be confiscated and the student's parent/guardian shall be notified. If the device is not suspected of being stolen, it shall be returned to the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian is responsible for making an appointment and picking up the device from the school administration. Unauthorized electronic devices will not be returned to the student. Devices will be returned to the parent/guardian upon proof of ownership. If the device is suspected of being stolen, it shall be turned over to the police.

Continued violations will be dealt with by the building administration through applicable procedures.

Telephone Pages/Beepers

With prior administrative approval, the telephone paging device/beeper prohibition shall not apply in the following cases.[\[1\]](#)

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 building principal.

For approval to carry a pager/beeper, a student must submit a letter to his/her principal from a volunteer fire company, ambulance service or physician, stating it is necessary for the student to carry such a device. Upon review by the building administration and approval of the request, an authorization letter shall be issued.

Other Devices

Any personal or non-district owned electronic devices to include but not limited to laptop computers, personal digit assistants (PDAs), game boys/units, cameras, and MP3 players brought to school shall not be used during the school day.

The student use of personal electronic storage devices such as flash drives and SMD/SD cards are prohibited unless authorized by the building principal.

Adopted: **March 14, 2005**

Last Revised: **September 15, 2009**

Legal References:

- [1. 24 P.S. 1317.1](#)
 - [2. 24 P.S. 510](#)
 - [3. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 5703](#)
 - 4. Pol. 814.1
 - 5. Pol. 113
 - 6. Pol. 218
 - 7. Pol. 233
 - Pol. 122
 - Pol. 123
 - Pol. 815
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