STUDENTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students in possession of telecommunications devices, including, but not limited to, pagers, beepers, and cellular phones, while on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities will observe the following conditions:

A. Telecommunication devices will be turned on and operated only before and after the regular school day and during the student's lunch break, unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger or a school administrator authorizes the student to use the device;

B. Students will not use telecommunication devices in a manner that poses a threat to academic integrity, disrupts the learning environment, or violates the privacy rights of others. Students will not use telecommunication devices in restrooms, locker rooms, team rooms, or other areas where students change clothes, except in an emergency. Students will not take photographs, videos, or audio recordings in a restroom, locker room, team room, or other area where students change clothes, whether or not any person is visible or identifiable in the recording, and will not share, post, or transmit any such photograph, video, or recording, regardless of who created it. A student who has or learns of such a photograph, video, or recording should promptly report it to a staff member, parent or guardian, or law enforcement, without copying, forwarding, or otherwise transmitting it.

C. Students will not send, share, view, or possess pictures, text messages, emails, or other material depicting sexually explicit conduct, as defined in RCW 9.68A.011, including depictions that have been fabricated or digitally altered, in electronic or any other form on a cell phone or other electronic device, while the student is on school grounds, at school sponsored events, or on school buses or vehicles provided by the District;

D. When a school official has reasonable suspicion, based on objective and articulable facts, that a student is using a telecommunications device in a manner that violates the law or school rules, the official may confiscate the device, which will only be returned to the student's parent or legal guardian;

E. By bringing a cell phone or other electronic devices to school or school-sponsored events, the student and their parent/guardian are on notice that school officials may search the device when school officials have a reasonable suspicion, based on objective and articulable facts, that such a search will reveal a violation of the law or school rules. The scope of the search will be limited to the violation of which the student is accused. Content or images that violate state or federal laws will be referred to law enforcement;

F. Staff members who encounter content that may depict a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, including a recording made in a restroom, locker room, team room, or other area where students change clothes, will not copy, forward, download, print, or

display the content, except as directed by law enforcement. The staff member will secure the device and promptly notify the principal or designee, who will refer the matter to law enforcement. The staff member's individual reporting obligation under RCW 26.44.030 and Policy 3421 also applies;

G. Students are responsible for devices they bring to school. The District will not be responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of devices brought onto school property or to school sponsored events;

H. Students will comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning the appropriate use of telecommunication or other electronic devices, including the rules for locker rooms, changing areas, and personal electronic devices in the Interscholastic Activities Code of Conduct (Procedure 2151P); and

I. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

Cross References:
2022 Electronic Resources and Internet Safety
2151 Interscholastic Activities
3205 Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment of Students Prohibited
3207 Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, or Hazing of Students
3230 Student Privacy and Searches
3241 Student Discipline
3421 Child Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Prevention
4310 Relations with Law Enforcement and Other Government Agencies

Legal References:
RCW 9.68A.011 Definitions
RCW 9.68A.053 Sexually explicit images – Crimes by minors – Penalties
RCW 9A.44.115 Voyeurism
RCW 26.44.030 Reports – Duty and authority to make
RCW 28A.320.135 Telecommunication and mobile devices – Limits on possession and use – Policies and procedures – Definitions
RCW 28A.600.230 School locker searches – Authorization - Limitations

Management Resources:
Policy News, October 2010 Students and Telecommunication Devices Revisited
Policy News, June 2010 Students and Sexting
Policy News, February 2004 Evolution of Cell Phone Use

Adopted: April 9, 2012
Amended: November 9, 2026