Policy No. 5250

Electronic Communication Devices

Statement of Policy

The Alpine School District Board of Education acknowledges the value of electronic communication devices as learning tools, and recognizes that electronic communication devices such as cell phones, tablets, and smartwatches are commonly used by parents and their children to communicate with each other. While electronic communication devices can assist in crisis response, provide essential medical functionalities, and facilitate certain 504 or IEP accommodations, these same devices have the potential to disrupt the orderly operation of the school and increase student anxiety while distracting students from learning. In accordance with UCA 53G-7-227, the Board hereby enacts this policy implementing the restrictions outlined herein in order to govern the possession and use of electronic communication devices.

Board Approvals

- Board Approved: March 14, 2006; Revised March 2013, February 2020, July 8, 2025; October 13, 2026

Procedures

No procedures have been established at this time.

Rules & Regulations

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. "AI glasses" means wearable eyewear, whether prescription or non-prescription, that:

1.1.1. incorporates one or more sensors, including cameras or microphones;

1.1.2. uses artificial intelligence, machine learning algorithms, or neural networks to process, analyze, or interpret data captured by the sensors in real-time or near real-time;

1.1.3. provides information, overlays, translations, identification, or other augmented content to the wearer through visual displays, audio output, or haptic feedback; and

1.1.4. may transmit, store, or share data to external devices, networks, or cloud-based services (UCA 53G-7-227).

1.1.5. "AI glasses" does not mean:

1.1.5.1. prescription eyeglasses or sunglasses without electronic components;

1.1.5.2. wearable devices used solely for reading glasses or vision correction without data collection or processing capabilities;

1.1.5.3. protective eyewear that contains only passive sensors without artificial intelligence processing capabilities; or

1.1.5.4. virtual reality headsets designed primarily for immersive gaming or entertainment that are not suitable for continuous wear in public settings (UCA 53G-7-227).

1.2. “Classroom hours” means time during which a student receives scheduled, teacher-supervised instruction that occurs in a physical or virtual classroom setting during regular school operating hours as part of an approved educational curriculum. The term “classroom hours” does not include:

1.2.1. lunch periods;

1.2.2. recess;

1.2.3. transit time between classes;

1.2.4. study halls (unless directly supervised by a teacher);

1.2.5. after-school activities (unless part of an approved extended learning program); or

1.2.6. independent study time occurring outside scheduled instruction.

1.3. “Electronic communication device” means a non-school-issued electronic device, including but not limited to a cell phone, tablet, smartwatch, earbuds, AI glasses, or other portable device, that can be used for entertainment or communication, regardless of whether or not such device is connected to a network. Fitness trackers which receive notifications but are incapable of responding to notifications are not electronic communication devices.

1.3.1. School-issued electronic devices, including Chromebooks and other devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or e-readers that are “checked-out” or loaned to students, are not “electronic communication devices” for the purpose of this policy.

1.4. “Permitted use” means the use of an electronic communication device for the following purposes:

1.4.1. to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;

1.4.2. to respond to a school-wide emergency;

1.4.3. to use the SafeUT Crisis Line;

1.4.4. for a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan, as authorized by the student's IEP or Section 504 team; or

1.4.5. to address a medical necessity. UCA 53G-7-227

2. PROHIBITED AND PERMITTED USES

2.1. In accordance with state law, students are prohibited from using electronic communication devices during classroom hours, except for a permitted use, based on the following principles:

2.1.1. Students responding to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual should immediately notify a school employee of the threat.

2.1.2. School employees should permit a student's use of an electronic communication device only to the extent explicitly required by the student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan. IEP and 504 teams are encouraged to thoughtfully consider whether alternative accommodations, other than access to electronic communication devices, may more effectively address the student's needs.

2.1.3. Students may use electronic communication devices to address a medical necessity (such as the monitoring of blood sugar levels or responding to seizure activity) when supported by medical documentation provided by the student or their parent/guardian to the school.

2.2. Regardless of whether a student's use of an electronic communication device might otherwise constitute a permitted use, no student may activate or use an electronic communication device in the locations or in connection with the sensitive student matters described in Section 6.5 of this Policy.

2.3. Student use of electronic communication devices which goes beyond a permitted use is prohibited by law and this policy and may subject the student to discipline (for example, a student may be disciplined for using their electronic communication device to access social media, even if the

device was initially accessed by the student to address a documented medical necessity).

2.4. School employees may verify and confirm authorized uses in ways which are consistent with general student expectations of privacy.

3. LEVELS OF RESTRICTION BASED ON GRADE LEVEL

3.1. Framework for Elementary Schools:

3.1.1. Electronic communication devices, except as otherwise described in this policy, shall remain in each student's backpack from bell to bell and shall not be seen or heard. Fitness trackers shall be set so that notifications are not received.

3.1.2. If a student needs to communicate with their parent/guardian during the school day, they may use their electronic communication device either in the front office or counseling office, with permission.

3.1.2.1. Electronic communication devices may not be used while using a hall pass, except when used in the front office or counseling office.

3.1.2.2. Parents may also request, as an accommodation, that their student be allowed to contact the parent using their electronic communication device during non-instructional time at the front office or counseling office.

3.2. Framework for Middle Schools:

3.2.1. Electronic communication devices, except as otherwise described in this policy, shall remain in each student's backpack and shall not be seen or heard. Fitness trackers will be set so that notifications are not received.

3.2.2. Electronic communication devices may be used on school grounds before and after school, and at lunch.

3.2.3. If a student needs to communicate with their parent/guardian at any other time, they may use their electronic communication device either in the front office or counseling office, with permission. Permission will be limited to urgent or crisis situations and will not allow for routine or non-urgent situations.

3.2.3.1. Electronic communication devices may not be used while using a hall pass, except when used in the front office or counseling office.

3.3. Framework for High Schools:

3.3.1. Electronic communication devices, except as otherwise described in this policy, shall remain in the students backpack, purse, or other bag during class, and shall not be seen or heard. Fitness trackers will be set so that notifications are not received during class.

3.3.2. Electronic communication devices may be used on school grounds before and after school, in between class bells, and at lunch.

3.3.3. If a student needs to communicate with their parent/guardian at any other time, they may use their electronic communication device either in the front office or counseling office, with permission. Permission will be limited to urgent or crisis situations and will not allow for routine or non-urgent situations.

3.3.3.1. Electronic communication devices may not be used while using a hall pass, except when used in the front office and counseling office.

4. CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT VIOLATIONS

4.1. Schools may determine their own consequences for student violations, which should be established in collaboration with their School Community Council (SCC), and must be (i) included in their school handbook and (ii) annually communicated to parents. In the absence of school consequences, the following will apply:

4.2. Teachers may remind students at the beginning of class to silence and put away electronic communication devices at the beginning of class, and to warn students of the consequences for violations of this policy as needed.

4.3. Student violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, including:

4.3.1. First Offense: The student will place their electronic communication device in a closed container as determined by the school. The student will keep the closed container throughout the remainder of the school day for elementary level and class period for the secondary level.

4.3.1.1. The incident will be recorded as a disciplinary incident in Skyward;

4.3.1.2. The electronic communication device will not be confiscated from the student;

4.3.2. Second Offense: The school will follow the same process as the first offense, but the administrator will contact and notify the student's parent of the second offense;

4.3.2.1. The incident will be recorded as a disciplinary incident in Skyward;

4.3.2.2. The electronic communication device will not be confiscated from the student;

4.3.3. Third Offense: The school will follow the same process as the second offense, but the parent and student will be required to meet with a school administrator to create an electronic communication device plan for supporting the student in complying with state law and following this policy;

4.3.3.1. The incident will be recorded as a disciplinary incident in Skyward;

4.3.3.2. The electronic communication device will not be confiscated from the student;

4.3.4. Repeated violations of this policy may result in escalated consequences, including suspension or full loss of electronic communication device privileges.

4.3.5. Students who, after committing an offense, refuse to place their electronic communication device in a closed container when directed by a teacher will be referred to school administration.

4.3.6. The school and district accept no responsibility for the loss of or damage to any device including theft.

5. SCHOOL RULES

5.1. The Board further permits a school to establish more restrictive guidelines to enforce reasonable rules relating to electronic communication devices in public schools including discipline and enforcement, so long as they are included in the school's handbook and posted on their website with annual communication to students and parents and do not violate UCA 53G-7-227. Rules established at each school may include, among other things:

5.1.1.1. Imposing a bell-to-bell restriction on student use of electronic communication devices;

5.1.1.2. Extending the existing restrictions on student use of electronic communication devices (for example, by prohibiting use during lunch or passing periods);

5.1.1.3. Establishing acceptable places for students to maintain electronic communication devices during classroom hours (for example, requiring students to check electronic communication devices into school-provided receptacles);

5.1.1.4. Outlining different procedures for allowing use of electronic communication devices in the event of an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual, a school-wide emergency, a medical necessity, or as necessary to use the

SafeUT Crisis Line or to access an IEP or 504 accommodation;

5.1.1.5. Establishing different consequences for student violations; and

5.1.1.6. Establishing procedures for the confiscation and return of electronic communication devices which are used in violation of this policy.

5.1.2. For the avoidance of doubt, school-specific rules or guidelines may not prohibit a student from using an electronic communication device for the purposes listed in Section 2.1, but may establish parameters for such approved uses (for example, by establishing how electronic communication devices will be allowed in the event of a school-wide emergency or determining a process for students to access their electronic communication devices to use the SafeUT Crisis Line).

5.2. The school principal and leadership team are encouraged to involve teachers, staff, parents, students, and community members in establishing the guidelines and recommending revisions as needed (R277-495-3(3).

5.3. Parents and students shall receive annual notice of any school-based rules or policies that modify the use of electronic communication devices established by this district policy.

5.4. Notice of the school rules regarding electronic communication devices, shall be made available annually to parents and students (i) in writing, and (ii) on the school's web page and in the student handbook.

5.5. The notice of rules shall include a statement that the school and district accept no responsibility for the loss of or damage to any device including theft.

6. GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL RULES

6.1. When creating school-based policies, the school should reference in their policy or guidelines the requirements found within Utah Administrative Rule R277-495-4 for electronic device use.

6.2. The principal of the school is hereby given the authority to make determinations as to additional locations and situations where possession or use of electronic communication devices and cameras are prohibited.

6.3. Exceptions to this policy may be granted by school administration for students who are participating in off-campus learning opportunities, and as accommodations for students with a physical or mental disability, family emergency or medical necessity that would require access to an electronic communication device.

6.4. Administrators, classroom teachers, and coaches may prohibit the possession or use of such devices at specific times and in specific circumstances not otherwise explicitly addressed in this policy.

6.5. Electronic communication devices, including AI glasses, and any other device which is capable of creating recordings, such as cameras or audio recording equipment, may not be activated or utilized in school situations where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and situations include but are not limited to:

6.5.1. locker rooms, shower rooms, changing areas, restrooms and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes;

6.5.2. any area where another student is receiving medical care, counseling, mental health support, crisis intervention, or a threat assessment;

6.5.3. any room or setting in which a student is receiving specialized instruction or related services under an IEP or Section 504 Plan;

6.5.4. physical altercations or conflicts between students;

6.5.5. disciplinary meetings or administrative proceedings involving another student; and

6.5.6. any situation in which another student's disability, diagnosis, medical condition, or other protected status is reasonably likely to be revealed.

6.6. At no time at school or in connection with a school activity may an electronic communication device be used by any student in a manner that violates Policy No. 5181 | Bullying Prevention or that might reasonably create in the mind of another person who is associated with the school an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated.

6.7. At no time can pornography be disseminated or accessed through electronic communication devices.

6.8. The use of an electronic communication device to threaten, intimidate or embarrass another or to capture and transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft or academic dishonesty, will result in suspension as referenced in Policy No. 5180 | Discipline. Authority: R277-495 (Authority, Purpose and Oversight) and~~,~~ R277-495-4 (LEA Electronic Device Policy Requirements)

7. COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

7.1. Because not all students have access to a school-issued electronic device or personal electronic communication device, when a school is using electronic means to send communications to students, the school should also take care to ensure that students have non-electronic notification of and access to:

7.1.1. school activities and events, including:

7.1.1.1. schedule changes;

7.1.1.2. extracurricular activities; and

7.1.1.3. sporting events; and

7.1.2. emergency response plans.

7.2. If the school provides each student with a school-issued electronic device, and the school-issued electronic device is capable of receiving electronic notification of and access to school activities and events as described in Section 5.1, then the school may provide electronic communications. If an emergency, unforeseen circumstance, or other incident arises and an LEA cannot reasonably provide timely non-electronic notification, the school should make its best effort to communicate essential information to all students through any means available.

7.3. The school may not require the use of a privately owned electronic device to complete course work. UCA 53G-4-402(22)

Approvals

- Board Approved: March 14, 2006; Revised: March 2013, February 2020, July 8, 2025; October 13, 2026