
STUDENT AFFAIRS

Policy

5300.15

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

In order to avoid disruption of the educational environment, promote mental well being, and protect students' right of privacy, student use of Wireless Communication Devices (WCDs) is restricted on school grounds during school hours. WCD's are defined as any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between 2 or more parties and includes all of the following:

- a. A cellular telephone.
- b. A tablet computer.
- c. A laptop computer.
- d. A gaming device.
- e. Other wearable devices meeting this definition (e.g. Smart watches)

Exceptions to these prohibitions include any school issued device to be used for a legitimate educational purpose. Additional exceptions are further outlined later in this policy.

All WCDs will be powered off during the school day and stored in a vehicle, backpack, pocket, purse or other location that keeps the WCD where it will not be seen in the school environment unless otherwise allowed by the exceptions outlined in this policy.

I. Policy Guidelines by Grade Level:

- **Grades 4K-8:**
 - The use of wireless communication devices is strictly prohibited on school grounds during school hours.
 - All WCDs must be powered off during the school day and stored out of sight in a vehicle, backpack, pocket, or purse.
 - Headphones and earbuds are also prohibited during instructional time and must be stored away unless approved for use by school staff for a legitimate educational purpose.
- **Grades 9-12 (High School):**
 - **During Instructional Time:** WCD's must not be seen, heard, or in use.

Devices must be stored in backpacks, purses, hanging pouches, or lockers, with ringers silenced. Headphones and earbuds are prohibited during instructional time, in all school locations (classroom, hallways, restrooms, etc.) unless use is approved by school staff for a legitimate instructional purpose. Instructional time is defined as the entirety of any class period.

- **During Non-Instructional Time:** Students may use wireless communication devices during non-instructional time. Non-Instructional time is defined as time during the school day prior to the start of the first class period, after the conclusion of the last class period, passing time between classes, and lunch time.
- The use of WCDs to engage in non-education-related communications is prohibited during instructional time. Students may not use WCDs on school property to access websites otherwise blocked at school.

II. Prohibited Uses of Wireless Communication Devices

Students may not use WCDs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school.

Students may use WCDs while riding to and from school on a school bus or other Board-provided vehicles, or on a school bus or Board-provided vehicle during school-sponsored activities, at the discretion of the sponsor/advisor/coach. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.

Except as authorized by a teacher, administrator or IEP team, students are prohibited from using WCDs during the school day, including while off-campus on a field trip, to capture, record and/or transmit the words or sounds (i.e., audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person. Using a WCD to capture, record, and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without proper consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted. Students who violate this provision and/or use a WCD to violate the privacy rights of another person shall have their WCD confiscated and held until a parent picks it up, and may be directed to delete the audio and/or picture/video file while the parent is present. If the violation involves potentially illegal activity, the confiscated-WCD may be turned over to law enforcement.

WCDs, with cameras or any other recording capabilities, may not be activated or utilized at any time in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include, but are not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, locker rooms, shower facilities, restrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes. The Superintendent and building principals are authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where use of a WCD is absolutely prohibited.

Students may not use a WCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another

person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed, or intimidated. In particular, students are prohibited from using WCDs to: (1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or political beliefs; and (2) engage in "sexting" - i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, e-mails or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.

Students are also prohibited from using a WCD to capture, record, and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using WCDs to receive such information.

Possession of a WCD by a student at school during school hours and/or during extra-curricular activities is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise abuses this privilege.

III. Exceptions to Policy for All Grades:

Students shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a wireless communication device under the following circumstances:

- In the case of an emergency or response to a perceived threat of danger
- When a teacher or administrator grants permission for a specific educational learning objective
- When a licensed physician determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being
- When the possession or use is required by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan

IV. Enforcement and Disciplinary Actions (All Grades):

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the WCD. The building principal will also refer the matter to law enforcement or child services if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g., child pornography, sexting). Discipline will be imposed on an escalating scale ranging from a warning to an expulsion based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or circumstances surrounding a particular violation.

Students who do not follow directions or refuse to surrender wireless communication

devices will be subject to administrative referral and progressive discipline. Consequences may include:

- **First Offense:** Device surrendered to the school staff and given to the school office for student retrieval at the end of the day.
- **Second and Subsequent Offenses:** Device surrendered to the teacher and given to the school office; a parent/guardian must pick up the device. Progressive discipline will be applied as deemed necessary for persistent disruptions.

A confiscated device will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location in the building's central office until it is retrieved by the parent or turned over to law enforcement. School officials will not search or otherwise tamper with WCDs in District custody unless they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privilege to bring a WCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.

V. Care and Security of Wireless Communication YDevices

Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their WCDs. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, or damage to, misuse or unauthorized use of, WCDs brought onto its property.

VI. Parent Communication

Parents are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office.

Students may use school phones to contact parents during the school day when needed.

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Reviewed: January 12, 2026