



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Policies Adopted by the Board
Title	WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES - Revised
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### 5136 - WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

'Wireless communication device' (WCDs) as used in this policy are defined in Bylaw 0100 and includes peripheral devices that have a wired or wireless connection to the WCD (e.g. – headphones, earbuds, watches with wireless capabilities, etc.).

The Board is aware that WCDs are used by students and parents to communicate with each other. However, the use of WCDs on school grounds must be appropriately regulated to protect students, staff, and the learning environment. ~~This policy sets forth the District's policy with respect to WCDs.~~ Whether intentional or not, WCDs can remove students socially, intellectually, and emotionally from being present while at school or when involved with school-related activities. The District wants all students to have the greatest opportunity for face-to-face engagement with their teachers and peers, as not being presently focused can increase social and academic isolation issues. In addition, while the use of social media can be intentional and positive, it can also be used in a way that causes others to feel left out, judged, anxious, and targeted. Unfortunately, WCDs can also be used by students to initiate and perpetuate inappropriate and/or unlawful conduct that can disrupt the orderly operation of schools and jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of others in the school community. Therefore, to help promote the in-person academic and social engagement of our students while at school and at school-related activities, the District has established the following expectations regarding the use of WCDs by students:

~~Grades Pre-K through 5 – Students in grades Pre-K through 5 are encouraged to leave their WCDs at home.~~ Students who bring WCDs to school must ensure that they remain on silent mode and completely out of view for the entire school day. Classroom teachers may also provide, and student may utilize, a cell phone storage area in their classroom.

~~Grades 6 through 8 – Students in grades 6 through 8 are encouraged to leave their WCDs at home.~~ Students who bring WCDs to school must ensure that they remain on silent mode and completely out of view for the entire school day except for the student's lunch period or as expressly authorized by the classroom teacher for a specific instructional activity. Classroom teachers may also provide, and student may utilize, a cell phone storage area in their classroom. These expectations also apply to extra-curricular and co-curricular activities that occur before or after the school day.

~~Grades 9 through 12 – Students in grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to leave their WCDs at home.~~ Students who bring WCDs to school must ensure that they remain on silent mode and completely out of view for the entire school day except for the student's lunch period, in between class periods, or as expressly authorized by the classroom teacher for a specific instructional activity. Classroom teachers may also provide, and student may utilize, a cell phone storage area in their classroom. These expectations also apply to extra-curricular and co-curricular activities that occur before or after the school day.

The District will utilize its existing IEP, Section 504 plan, and student medical processes and procedures to evaluate requests for accommodation that are supported with the needed documentation.

With the approval of their respective Assistant Superintendent, and based on the specific facts and circumstances at their school, a school principal may impose more restrictive conditions at their school.

Pursuant to State law, students shall not operate a motor vehicle owned or leased by the District on or off school property, or personal motor vehicle on District property, while manually typing or entering multiple letters, numbers, symbols, or other characters into a personal communication device or while sending or reading messages on such a device, for the purpose of non-voice interpersonal communication, including, but not limited to, communication methods known as texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, and snap chatting.

~~Technology including, but not limited to, WCDs intended and actually used for instructional purposes (e.g., taking notes, recording classroom lectures, writing papers) will be permitted, as approved by the classroom teacher or the building principal. However, the use of a WCD to engage in non-education related communications during instructional time is expressly prohibited.~~

~~Students may use WCDs before and after school, during their lunch break, in between classes, during after school activities (e.g. extra-curricular activities), at school related functions, and while on the school bus provided such uses do not create a distraction, disruption, or otherwise interfere with the educational environment. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated. Use of WCDs, except those approved by a teacher or administrator, at any other time is prohibited and they must be powered completely off (i.e. not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.~~

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 or transmit the words or sounds (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity, without express prior notice and explicit, written consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. 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 may have their WCD confiscated and held until the end of the school day or until a parent/guardian picks it up, and may be directed to delete the audio and/or picture/video file while the parent/guardian is present. If the violation involves potentially illegal activity, the confiscated WCD may be turned over to law enforcement.

'Sexting' is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. As set forth in State law, sexting is the knowing transmission or distribution to another minor by a computer or similar device any photograph or video of any person that depicts nudity and is harmful to minors. Sexting also includes possessing a photo of any person that was transmitted or distributed by another minor that depicts nudity. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but also can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the WCD and referral to law enforcement.

The use of WCDs that contain built-in cameras (i.e., devices that take still or motion pictures, whether in a digital or other format) is prohibited in locker rooms, shower facilities, and/or rest/bathrooms.

Students shall have no expectation of confidentiality with respect to their use of WCDs on school premises/property.

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. See Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Harassment. 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, national origin, sex, 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 (i.e., sexting) in electronic or any other form. As set forth in State law, sexting is the knowing transmission or distribution to another minor by a computer or similar device any photograph or video of any person that depicts nudity and is harmful to minors. Sexting also includes possessing a photo of any person that was transmitted or distributed by another minor that depicts nudity and is harmful to minors. 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. Students must adhere to any additional restrictions imposed within a testing environment regarding the use and/or possession of WCDs during testing.

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. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the WCD. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement or child services if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g. child pornography, sexting). Violations of this policy shall result in disciplinary action(s) in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. If the WCD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed, unless the violation involves potentially illegal activity in which case the WCD may be 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. Any search will be conducted in accordance with Policy 5771 – Search and Seizure. 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.

A person who discovers a student using a WCD in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to the building principal.

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

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