SECOND READING BY BOARD

po5136

# Vol. 35, No. 2 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) - July 2026 Revised PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

5136 - **PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

The Board is aware that Personal Communication Devices ( PCDs ) are used by students and parents to communicate with each other. However, the use of PCDs on school grounds must be appropriately regulated to protect students, staff, and the learning environment.

~~"Personal communication devices" ("~~ PCDs ~~")~~, also referred to as "wireless communication devices", as used in this policy, mean a portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two (2) or more parties and includes all of the following:

A. cellular/mobile telephone;

B. tablet computer;

C. laptop computer;

D. gaming device;

E. smartphone;

F. e-reader;

G. wearable technology that captures images or video;

H. any other web-enabled devices of any type.

Students may use PCDs before and after school, during their lunch break, in between classes as long as they do not create a distraction, disruption, or otherwise interfere with the educational environment, during after-school activities (e.g., extra curricular activities), and at school-related functions. Use of PCDs 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. Individual buildings may develop more stringent protocols based on the ages of the students they serve.

All PCD use must consistently adhere to the standards outlined in Policy 7540.08 – Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Students may not use PCDs 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 are prohibited from unauthorized use of, or access to, the District's wired and/or wireless network.

Students may use PCDs while riding to and from school on a school bus or other Board-provided vehicle or on a school bus or Board-provided vehicle during school-sponsored activities at the discretion of the bus driver, classroom teacher, or 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 PCDs 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 PCD 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 PCD to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their PCD confiscated and held until the end of the school day and/or 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 PCD may be turned over to law enforcement.

PCDs 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, rest/bathrooms, 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 PCD is absolutely prohibited.

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

Students may not use a PCD 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. In particular, students are prohibited from using PCDs 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 any Protected Class consistent with Board Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity; 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 PCD 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 PCDs to receive such information.

Possession of a PCD 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.

**Policy Violations**

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the PCD. 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. If the PCD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed unless the violation involves potentially illegal activity, in which case the PCD may be turned over to law enforcement.

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 PCDs 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 the privilege to bring a PCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.

Student use of PCDs in the following circumstances will not be considered a violation of this policy:

A. **Emergency or Threat:** Student use of a PCD is allowed in the event of an emergency or a perceived threat to address the safety and security of students and staff.

B. **Health Care Management:** Student use is authorized as necessary to manage or support a specific student’s health care needs as approved by the District Nurse.

C. **Individualized Education Plans:** Student use is authorized consistent with a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a plan developed under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

D. **Educational Purposes:** Student use is authorized by a teacher for legitimate educational purposes during instructional time as described above.

**Duty to Report**

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

**Students Responsible for Their PCDs**

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

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.

**Annual Notice**

No later than October 1 of each year, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) shall be notified by the District of whether any changes have been made to this policy and, if so, the updated policy shall be submitted to the DPI.

Revised 11/15/17
Revised 5/19/21
T.C. 1/31/22
Revised 11/4/25

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**Legal**
118.13, Wis. Stats.
118.258, Wis. Stats.
120.12(29), Wis. Stats.
175.22, Wis. Stats.