

5000: Students
Title: WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES
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5136 - WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Pursuant to Indiana Code, the Board of School Trustees prohibits use of wireless communication devices during instructional time except for specific exceptions as listed below. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students and their parents/guardians understand the obligations and limitations associated with the use of wireless communication devices and changes in legislation. A student may bring, but is prohibited from possessing and/or using a wireless electronic device which is portable and is capable of providing voice, messaging, or other data communications between two or more persons and includes cellular telephones, tablet computers, laptop computers, digital cameras, gaming devices, and/or smartwatches or any similar device that is connected to a cellular phone, cell tower, or the Internet during the school day. A student may use such a device if a teacher requires use of a school-supplied device or a school-sanctioned device for instructional purposes only. During the school day the wireless communication device must be stored away, powered off, and inaccessible to students. This policy is a supplement to the school's Internet Acceptable Use Policy, which applies to the use of any wireless communication device in school, including personal laptops and other devices.

Allowable Exceptions:

- A. As specifically permitted by administration or a teacher for educational purposes. Such permission may be given for each episode of use or as an ongoing grant of permission for regularly occurring use.
- B. In the event of an emergency. An emergency for this purpose includes the use of a wireless communication device during instructional time to make an otherwise lawful alert or call for assistance in response to a condition or situation causing an immediate risk to health, life, or property. It does not include the use of a wireless communication device in an unlawful act, nor does it include the use of a wireless communication device in a manner that impairs, obstructs, or disrupts emergency response or assistance by the Corporation, health professionals, government officials or other authorized persons.
- C. To manage a student's health care. Management of health care for this purpose includes action that cannot be reasonably conducted during noninstructional time facilitating the maintenance, diagnosis, or treatment of an individual's physical or mental condition. The Corporation may require parent permission for unemancipated minors and medical or other documentation of the necessity of the use to determine whether such use fits into this exception.

D. As permitted by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

E. To support a student with language translation options.

~~D.F.~~ To capture unobtrusive audio recording for notetaking or personal learning assistance. This exception is permitted only when the device captures spoken word audio and does not capture, store, or transmit images or video, is visible to the teacher when in use, is provided for inspection by school officials, and is used in manner consistent with recording audio provisions of state and federal laws and policy. A recording made by such a device will not be used for disciplinary, evaluative, or supervisory purpose against a student or employee.

Guidelines for Use

- A. Use of a wireless communication device is by permission of the administration or teacher for educational purposes only. Students must obtain permission before using such a device in class for educational purposes only.
- B. Use of a personal laptop or other device must support instructional activities.
- C. Students must agree to disable audio/video functions and to put away a personal laptop or other device, if asked.
- D. Students may only use personal laptops or other devices in accordance with the Corporation's Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
- E. A violation of any of these guidelines may result in the revocation of privileges regarding the use of a personal laptop or computing device and appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action.

“Wireless communication device” means any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, including a cellular telephone, tablet computer, laptop computer, smart watch or gaming device.

Students may use WCDs while riding to and from school on a school bus at the discretion of the bus driver. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.

Using a WCD to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent may be considered an invasion of privacy. Students who use a WCD to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their WCD confiscated and held.

WCDs, including but not limited to those with cameras, may not be possessed, 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 locker rooms, shower facilities, restrooms, classrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes. The building principal has authority to make determinations as to other specific locations and situations where possession of a WCD is absolutely prohibited.

No expectation of confidentiality will exist in the use of WCDs on school premises/property.

Students are prohibited from using 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 Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior.

Students are also prohibited from using a WCD to capture 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 their WCDs to knowingly receive such information.

Possession of a WCD by a student is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of 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 if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g., child pornography). 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. Any search of a WCD will be conducted in accordance with Policy 5771 - Search and Seizure. If multiple

offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privileges to bring a WCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.

Restrictions and Disclaimers

- A. The Corporation accepts no responsibility or financial liability for personal laptops or other [electronic and/or](#) computing devices that are brought to school by students.
- B. [Cell phones, laptops,](#) or other devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged are the responsibility of the student and his/her parents/guardians, regardless of how the loss, theft, or damage occurs.
- C. Students are advised to take steps to guard against damage, loss, or theft.
- D. The Corporation's technology department will not provide technical support for any personal laptop or other computing device.

Technical Requirements for Access

Personal laptops or other computing devices must conform with the Corporation's technical requirements, which are accessible through the Corporation's website and which may be amended from time to time.

[LEGAL REFERENCE: IC 20-26-5-40.7](#)