

POLICY 5305

Student Use of Electronic Devices

A. Purpose

1. ~~The Board of Education recognizes that uncontrolled use of electronic devices often disrupt student learning time, may contribute to cheating, and may also be used inappropriately to photograph and/or contact other students without their consent.~~ While in some instances the possession and use of electronic devices by a student at a school may be appropriate, often the possession and use of such devices or objects by students at school can have the effect of distracting, disrupting and intimidating others in the school setting and leading to opportunities for academic dishonesty and other disruptions of the educational process. The purpose of this policy is to vest in school administrators' authority to enforce reasonable rules relating to such objects or devices in the public schools. Some electronic devices used by students may be owned by the District and provided to students for their use. This policy also addresses standards for student use of such District-owned devices.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-3 \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

B. Definitions

1. "Classroom hours" means the time during which a student receives scheduled, teacher-supervised instruction that occurs:
 - a. In a classroom setting (either physical or virtual);
 - b. during regular school operating hours, and
 - c. as part of an approved educational curriculum.
 - d. "Classroom hours" does not include:
 - 1) Lunch periods;
 - 2) Recess;
 - 3) Transit time between classes;

- 4) Study halls (unless directly supervised by a qualified instructor);
- 5) After-school activities unless part of an approved extended learning program;
or
- 6) Independent study time occurring outside of scheduled instruction.

Utah Code § 53G-7-227(1)(c) (2025)

2. “Cellphone” means:

- a. A smartphone, a feature phone, a mobile phone, a satellite phone, or a personal digital assistant that incorporates capabilities similar to a smartphone, feature phone, mobile phone, or satellite phone;
- b. A smart watch, as defined below; or
- c. Emerging technology, as defined below.

Utah Code § 53G-7-227(1)(a) (2025)

3. “Smart watch” means a wearable computing device that closely resembles a wristwatch or other time-keeping device with the capability to act in place of or as an extension of an individual’s cellphone. It does not include a wearable device that can only tell time, monitor an individual’s health informatics, receive and display notifications or information without the capability to respond, or track the individual’s location.

Utah Code § 53G-7-227(1)(e) (2025)

4. “Emerging technology” means any device that has or will be able to act in place of or as an extension of an individual’s cellphone. It does not include devices provided or required by the school.

Utah Code § 53G-7-227(1)(d) (2025)

5. “Electronic device” means a **cellphone and any other kind of** device that is used for audio, video, or text communication or any other type of computer or computer-like instrument.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-2(2) (October 8, 2024)

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4(1)(a) (October 8, 2024)

6. “District-owned electronic device” means an electronic device which is identified as being owned, provided, issued, or lent to a student by the District.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-2(6) (October 8, 2024)

7. “Guest” means an individual who is not a student, employee, or designated volunteer of the District who is on school property or at the site of a school-sponsored activity or event.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-2(3) (October 8, 2024)

8. “Inappropriate matter” means pornographic or indecent material as defined in [Utah Code § 76-5c-208\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) and [Utah Code § 53G-10-103](#).

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-2(4) (October 8, 2024)

9. “Individualized suspicion” means:
- a. Information that an individual has violated a policy;
 - b. This is generally required for a constitutional search (including a search of personal belongings);
 - c. Exceptions are possible when the privacy interests implicated by a search are minimal and where other safeguards are available;
 - d. This standard is not as exacting in the public school setting as in criminal law.
10. “Medical necessity” means:
- a. A student’s illness, with or without a health care professional’s documentation; or
 - b. A student’s recurring illness or medical problem(s).
11. “Parent” is the person(s) who has legal responsibility for the student’s education.
12. “Reasonable suspicion”
- a. Reasonable suspicion need not be based on a single factor, but can be based on the totality of the circumstances;

- b. It can be based on the aggregate effect of all information available at the time of a search;
- c. It does not require absolute certainty, but only “sufficient probability,” the sort of common-sense conclusion about human behavior upon which practical people are entitled to rely.

C. Use of District-Owned Electronic Devices

1. District-owned electronic devices must be used in accordance with the specific rules and conditions related to the issuance of the device to the student, including rules on care and maintenance of the device, any restrictions on personal uses of the device, and rules relating to installation or use of software on the device. Students may not use any District-owned electronic device to access inappropriate matter, nor may students use any District-owned electronic device to hack (obtain unauthorized access or interfere in any way with) any network or any electronic device. Students may not use any District-owned electronic device in any way that significantly impairs academic excellence. Students may not use any District-owned electronic device in ways that bully, humiliate, harass, or intimidate school-related individuals, including students, employees, or guests. Regardless of location, use of District-owned electronic devices must comply with [Policy 4178 Internet Use](#), [Policy 5270 Student Rights and Responsibilities: Bullying, Cyberbullying, Hazing, and Abusive Conduct](#), and other student conduct policies.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4\(1\)\(b\), \(c\), \(e\) \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

2. District-owned electronic devices are the responsibility of the students to whom they are issued, both with respect to loss or damage of the device and with respect to misuse of the device. When the recipient student allows another to use a District-owned electronic device, the recipient student is jointly responsible for any misuse of the device.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4\(2\)\(d\) \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

3. Students have no expectation of privacy regarding the contents or use of District-owned electronic devices. The devices shall have filtering software or other restrictions in place to prevent students from accessing inappropriate matter. However, the failure of such filtering software or mechanisms does not prevent a student from being disciplined for accessing inappropriate matter. Teachers or administrators may directly or remotely view, control, search, or otherwise access District-owned electronic devices at any time.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4(1)(c) (October 8, 2024)

4. District-owned electronic devices remain the property of the District. Use of a District-owned electronic device in violation of any District policy may result in the device being confiscated from the student, which may result in missed assignments, inability to complete required assessments, and possible loss of credit or academic grade consequences, in addition to any other appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4(2)(b), (5)(c) (October 8, 2024)

D. Student Use of Cellphones

- E. ~~The following will govern student use of electronic devices including, tablets, smart phones, a smart or electronic watch, earbuds (wireless or wired), a virtual reality device, and cameras. Students may not use cellphones during classroom hours except under the specific circumstances outlined in the following section.~~

1. ~~Students may have cellphones in their possession during classroom hours possess these items while in school and at school activities.~~
2. ~~All electronic devices~~ Cellphones must remain out of sight during classroom hours AND will be turned off, ~~not used, and be kept out of sight during class time.~~
3. A cellphone may be confiscated if a student uses it during classroom hours.
4. Confiscated cellphones may be retrieved by individuals designated by the school. Students may also be subject to school discipline.
5. A school shall, by written policy, establish a warning schedule for student violations which all school employees shall follow.
6. Student cellphones inappropriately used or disclosed may be subject to search by school administrators based on reasonable suspicion.

Utah Code § 53G-7-227(3) (2025)

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4(2)(b), (5)(c) (October 8, 2024)

7. Students may use cellphones during classroom hours as follows:
 - a. To address a medical necessity.
 - b. As provided in the student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan

- c. To use the SafeUT Crisis Line.
- d. To respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual.
- e. To respond to a school-wide emergency.

[Utah Code § 53G-7-227\(2\)\(a\) \(2025\)](#)

[Utah Code § 53G-17-1202 \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4\(5\)\(d\) \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

F. General Standards for Student Use of Electronic Devices

1. Students may not use any electronic device to access inappropriate matter while on school property or while using District connectivity. Students may not use any electronic device to hack (obtain unauthorized access or interfere in any way with) any school network or any District electronic device or electronic device of a person associated with the school. Students may not use any electronic device in ways that bully, humiliate, harass, or intimidate school-related individuals, including students, employees, or guests. Use of student electronic devices at school must comply with [Policy 4178](#). Regardless of location, use of student electronic devices must comply with [Policy 5270](#), and other student conduct policies. Misuse of student electronic devices in a manner that causes disruption at school or school-sponsored activities, programs, or events may result in discipline under the school disciplinary policies (including where warranted suspension or expulsion) and may result in notification to law enforcement authorities.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4\(1\)\(c\), \(2\)\(b\), \(f\) \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

2. Use of a student electronic device in violation of this or other District policies may result in confiscation of the device as provided herein, may result in the school contacting a parent to address the violation, and may result in such other disciplinary sanctions as provided for under this or other student conduct policies. In addition, where such use is in violation or believed to be in violation of an applicable law, regulation, or ordinance, school administrators or teachers may notify law enforcement or other appropriate authorities and the student may be subject to criminal or other penalties provided by law.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4\(2\)\(c\), \(e\) \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

3. Students may not be required to use a privately owned electronic device to complete course work.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4(2)(g) (October 8, 2024)

- ~~4. Policies governing student use of electronic devices before school, between class times, during their lunch and/or recess periods and during and after school activities will be determined at the school level.~~
- ~~5. Electronic devices with photography capabilities will not be operated while a student is in a restroom, dressing room, or any other location where photography may be inappropriate.~~

G. Consequences for Violation of Policy

- ~~1. Student will receive one warning prior to discipline for violation of this policy, as determined by the school.~~
- ~~2. Parent(s) or their designated individuals, upon identification, may retrieve their student's electronic device during school hours or by appointment.~~
- ~~3. A school may impose other consequences for a student's violation of the electronic device policy only following notice of such policy to the school community. Such penalties are not exhaustive and more than one penalty may be imposed, if warranted. Such penalties may include:
 - ~~a. loss of electronic device privileges~~
 - ~~b. disciplinary letter~~
 - ~~c. in-school suspension~~
 - ~~d. suspension~~
 - ~~e. loss of extracurricular or honor privileges or recognition~~~~
- ~~4. If students are defiant and will not cooperate with school administrators and/or will not surrender electronic device(s), the designated school administrator may take appropriate action for the safety and well-being of the student and other students or employees at the school. The school principal or designee shall notify a parent immediately of additional penalties.~~

H. Reporting misuse of electronic devices

1. Students should report any misuse of electronic devices by an employee to the principal or other appropriate administrator. Students should report misuse of electronic devices by other students to a teacher or an administrator. Misuse of electronic devices by guest should be reported to the principal or other appropriate administrator.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4\(4\)\(b\) \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

I. Training

1. Each school shall, within the first 45 days of each school year, provide school-wide or in-classroom training to students that covers:
 - a. The District's internet and electronic device policies ([Policy 4178](#) and [Policy 5270](#));
 - b. The importance of digital citizenship;
 - c. The District and school's student conduct and discipline policies;
 - d. The benefits of connecting to the internet and using the school's internet filters while on school premises; and
 - e. The discipline related consequences of violating internet and electronic device policies.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-5 \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

J. Notice to Student and Parents of Policy

1. A copy of this policy shall be made available in printed form at the District offices and a copy of this policy or a clear electronic link to this policy shall be made available on the District's website. Individual school policies shall be made available in printed form at the school offices and a copy of those policies or a clear electronic link to those policies shall be made available on the school's website. Parents and students shall receive annual written notice of District and school electronic device policies, which may be satisfied by the website posting, publishing the policy in a school handbook or directory, sending the policy to the student's home or any other reasonable means.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-3\(4\), \(5\) \(October 8, 2024\)](#)

2. Parents and students shall receive notice of changes in District or school electronic device policies in a timely manner and through reasonable means.
3. A copy of the most current policy shall always be available in the main office of the school and shall be posted online on the school website, if a school has a website.
4. Schools may require that parents return a copy of the policy with signature indicating that parents have had access to the policy.
5. Information to parents should include exceptions to the policy and potential consequences for students. Information to parents shall provide clear information of how best to contact students during school hours or activities, in lieu of immediate contact by electronic device.
6. Students and parents shall be notified that law enforcement may be contacted, at school's discretion, if circumstances warrant such contact.

K. Confiscated Student Electronic Devices

1. Only licensed school personnel (unless other employees are specifically identified in policy) may confiscate student electronic devices. Licensed school employees are discouraged from searching or reviewing material or numbers stored on student electronic devices except with reasonable suspicion that would warrant a search. Licensed school employees may search an electronic device based on their reasonable suspicion that the student has violated this policy or another District policy. To the extent justified by the nature of the violation for which the reasonable suspicion exists, the search may include text messages, photo files, and calls (recent, missed, or dialed).
2. Schools will do their best to guard and protect confiscated student electronic devices, but are not responsible for loss, damage, or theft.
3. Schools will make a good faith effort to notify parent(s) or their designated individuals that a student's electronic device is in the school's possession and, time and resources permitting, will maintain possession of such devices until the end of the school year, at which time the school may dispose of the device. Prior to disposal of devices, schools shall attempt to clear all personal data.

L. Other Provisions

1. Picture taking or video or audio recording by students is strictly forbidden in school or school activity private areas, such as locker rooms, counseling sessions,

washrooms, and dressing areas. Students are further prohibited from using electronic devices to transmit any such recordings. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices in any way which would cause invasions of the reasonable privacy expectations of students or school staff or guest.

Utah Admin. Rules R277-495-4(5)(a) (October 8, 2024)

2. Any inappropriate use of electronic devices or the use of these electronic devices to threaten or harass other students or school employees, regardless of whether the individual directed, consented to, or acquiesced in the conduct, or voluntarily accessed the electronic communication, will result in the immediate confiscation of the device. Electronic devices that contain images of minors in a nude or semi-nude state will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement. Confiscated electronic devices will be returned to the parent of the student when the school has completed any investigation and the issue has been completely resolved.
 - a. Any use of an electronic device or camera to record sounds or images or otherwise capture material in an unauthorized setting or at an unauthorized time shall subject the user of the device to increased discipline based on the circumstances and whether the student has been involved in prior violations of this policy.
 - 1) The use of any electronic device or camera to threaten, bully, 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 appropriate discipline.
 - b. The use of any electronic device in a manner which may be physically harmful to another person, such as shining a laser in the eyes of another student, will result in appropriate discipline. When a student repeatedly engages in such behavior, the punishment may be increased as is appropriate.
3. Electronic devices that are confiscated for inappropriate use at school may be searched if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the device has evidence of a violation of a school policy or law. The search must be limited to applications and areas of the device (texts, photo files, calls) where evidence of the violation may be contained, based on the information the administrator received. Evidence of a violation of a policy or law may be used for disciplinary action, and may be turned over to law enforcement if the evidence implicates a crime.

4. If an administrator receives information that an electronic device contains images of minors in a nude or semi-nude state, administrators will confiscate the device and contact law enforcement.
5. Students bring their electronic devices on school property or to school activities at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged student electronic devices.
6. Students are strictly responsible for their own electronic devices. If devices are borrowed or taken and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse of the device and policy violation(s) committed with the device.