

Students

Electronic Devices

Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Students may possess privately owned technological devices on school property and/or during school sponsored activities, in accordance with the mandates of this policy and any applicable administrative regulations as may be developed by the Superintendent of Schools. ~~The Bristol Board of Education (“Board”) considers allowing students to bring to school such devices to be a privilege and not a right. The Board reserves the right to revoke this privilege if a student fails to adhere to the following guidelines and/or the Board’s acceptable use and student discipline policies.~~

Definitions

Board Technology Resources

For the purposes of this policy, “Board Technology Resources” refers to the Board’s computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources used by the school district and accessible by students.

Privately Owned Technological Devices

For the purposes of this policy, “Privately Owned Technological Devices” refers to privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing, etc. These devices may include, but are not limited to, personal laptops, smart phones, Chromebooks, Kindles, Nooks, cellular telephones, radios, and walkie-talkies, personal data assistants, I-Phones and other electronic signaling devices.

Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices

Privately owned technological devices may not be used during instructional time, except as specifically permitted by ~~Policy # 6141.328 Bring Your Own Device and Protocol for the use of Personal Technology in the Schools. Cellular telephones may not be turned on during the school day. Use of the device shall be limited to the period before classes begin in the morning and after the student’s last class in the afternoon. Such devices shall not be used during instructional time or in the passing between classes unless there is a bona fide health or safety emergency.~~ except as specifically permitted by instructional staff or unless necessary for a student to access the district’s digital learning platform or otherwise engage in remote learning if remote learning has been authorized in accordance with applicable law.

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Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices (continued)

On school property, at a school-sponsored activity, while in use for a remote learning activity if remote learning has been authorized in accordance with applicable law, or while being used to access or utilize Board technology resources, the use of any such device for an improper purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to: use of any such device for an improper purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to Board technology resources;
- Damaging Board technology resources;
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, **obscene as to minors**, or contains pornography;
- Cyberbullying;
- ~~Taking pictures without the specific permission of the subject of the picture;~~
- Using ~~a privately owned technological~~ such device to violate any school rules, including the unauthorized recording (photographic or audio) of another individual without the permission of the individual or a school staff member; or
- Taking any action prohibited by any Federal or State law.

Search of Privately Owned Technological Devices

~~A student's privately owned technological device may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Any such search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.~~

A student's privately-owned technological device may be searched if the device is on Board property or in a student's possession at a school-sponsored activity and if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Any such search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Responsibility for Privately Owned Technological Devices

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their privately owned technological devices. If a privately owned technological device is stolen, lost, or damaged **while the device is on school property or during a school-sponsored activity**, a report should be made to the building principal, who will investigate the loss in a manner consistent with procedures for stolen or damaged personal property. Students and parents should be aware that the Board is not liable for any

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Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices (continued)

Responsibility for Privately Owned Technological Devices (continued)

privately owned technological device that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school **or during a school-sponsored activity**. ~~Furthermore, the Board shall not be liable for any data plan charges or any other costs associated with the use of private technological devices.~~ For that reason, students are advised not to share or loan their privately owned technological devices with other students.

~~Students shall take full responsibility for their device and shall keep it safely stored when not in use. Classroom teachers will determine the best storage location for such devices. Students are required to take home their privately owned technological devices at the end of each school day.~~

Disciplinary Action

Misuse of the Board's technology resources and/or the use of privately owned technological devices to access or utilize the Board's technology resources in an inappropriate manner or the use of such devices in any manner inconsistent with this policy will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. For students, a violation of this policy may result in loss of access privileges, a prohibition on the use and/or possession of privately owned technological devices on school property, **or at school-sponsored activities**, and/or suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Board's policies related to student discipline.

Access to Board Technology Resources

~~It is the policy of the Bristol Board of Education to~~ The Board may permit students, using their privately owned technology devices, to access the Board's computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources used by the school district and accessible by students. **Students using privately-owned technological devices will agree to access the District's technology resources only through the designated Wi-Fi network.**

Additionally, it is the expectation of the Board of Education that students who access these resources while using privately owned technology devices will act at all times appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws.

Through the publication and dissemination of this policy statement and others related to use of the Board's computer systems, as well as other instructional means, the Board educates students about the Board's expectations for technology users.

The Board technology resources shall only be used to access educational information and to promote learning activities both at home and at school. ~~The Board considers access to its technology resources to be a privilege and not a right.~~ Students are expected to act at all times appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws when using the Board technology resources. Failure to do so will result in the consequences outlined herein and in other applicable policies (including, but not limited to, the Safe School Climate Plan, the Student Discipline Policy and the Use of Computers Policy).

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Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices (continued)

Access to Board Technology Resources (continued)

Students must abide by the procedures outlined in this policy and all policies and applicable regulations outlined in the Board's computer use and other applicable policies. Students will be given specific information for log-on and access procedures using school accounts. No user may deviate from these log-on/access procedures. Students are advised that the Board's network administrators have the capability to identify users and to monitor all privately owned technological devices while they are logged on to the network. Students must understand that the Board has reserved the right to conduct monitoring of Board technology resources and can do so *despite* the assignment to individual users of passwords for system security. Any password systems implemented by the Board are designed solely to provide system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user. The system's security aspects, message delete function and personal passwords can be bypassed for monitoring purposes. Therefore, students should be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of privately owned technological devices to access Board technology resources. This provision applies to any and all uses of the Board's technology resources and that any privately owned technological devices access same.

Harm to Board Technology Resources

Any act by a student using a privately owned technological device that harms the Board's technology resources or otherwise interferes with or compromises the integrity of Board technology resources will be considered vandalism and will be subject to discipline and/or appropriate criminal or civil action.

Closed Forum

This policy shall not be construed to establish a public forum or a limited open forum.

~~(cf. 5114—Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)~~

~~(cf. 5131—Conduct at School and Activities)~~

~~(cf. 5131.8—Out of School Misconduct)~~

~~(cf. 5131.911—Bullying)~~

~~(cf. 5131.913—Cyberbullying)~~

~~(cf. 5143.—Academic Integrity/Cheating)~~

~~(cf. 5145.5—Sexual Harassment)~~

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices
 31-48d Employees engaged in electronic monitoring required to give prior
 notice to employees.
 53a-182 Obstructing free passage: Class C misdemeanor.
 53a-183 Harassment in the second degree: Class C misdemeanor.
 53a-250 Definitions.
 Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 28 U.S.C. §§2510 through 2520.

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)
Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S.
925 (1978)
Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562
(1988)
Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

Policy Adopted: August 17, 2005
Policy Revised: July 1, 2015

BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bristol, Connecticut

Students

Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Cellular Phones

The use of privately-owned technological devices at school is considered a privilege, not a right. Therefore, students may possess cellular phones and other wireless communication devices on school property and school-sponsored transportation, providing students adhere to the restrictions contained within this regulation and specific school building restrictions outlined in the student handbook.

High School: Students are permitted to bring cellular phones and other wireless communication devices to school. Such devices should remain on silent throughout the school day. Device use, including earbuds, is not permitted, bell to bell, during class time. A teacher may allow use of such devices for course-specific educational purposes. Students may use cellular phones and other wireless communication devices during non-class times in areas designated by the school administration.

Middle School: Students are permitted to bring cellular phones and other wireless communication devices to school. Devices must be placed, on silent, in lockers prior to the start of the academic school day and can be collected at the end of the academic day. Students may use cellular phones and other wireless communication devices before and after the academic day in areas designated by the school administration.

PreK-5: Students are discouraged from bringing cellular phones and other wireless communication devices to school. If a parent/guardian sends their student to school with a device, the device must remain on silent for the entire day and remain out of sight and in a student's bag for the entirety of the school day and while on school-sponsored transportation.

Other Acceptable Uses

Cellular phones and other wireless communication devices are permissible in the following circumstances:

a. IEP, 504, or Health Care/Medical Plan.

Students may use cellular phones, wireless communication devices and other electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care/Medical Plan with supportive documentation from the student's physician.

b. Other Reasons.

Other reasons determined appropriate by a school administrator or school administrator's designee.

Regulation approved:

BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bristol, Connecticut