

BP 5138 STUDENT POSSESSION & USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES, INCLUDING CELLULAR PHONES

The School Board recognizes that many students possess and use cell phones and other electronic communication devices (ECD). These devices serve an important purpose in facilitating communication between the student and their family, as well as serving as tools to access electronic information. In the school setting, portable electronic devices are permitted so long as their use is consistent with this policy and does not interfere with the educational process or with safety and security.

(cf. 5030 – School Discipline and Safety)

Educational Uses

In many instances, there is educational value in utilizing electronic communication devices in the classroom when such devices deliver content, and extend, enhance, and/or reinforce a student's learning process related to the student's learning style, the instructional objectives of the class and/or the learning environment. The appropriateness of in-class use of these devices consistent with the instructional objectives within instructional time will be determined by the classroom teacher with the approval by the building administrator.

Use of electronic communication devices for students with disabilities will be outlined in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan, as determined appropriate by the IEP or 504 Team.

(cf. 6159 – Individualized Education Program)

If use of a electronic communication device is required in individual instances (not provided for in an IEP or 504 plan) to assist a student with the student's education, permission must be obtained in writing from a building administrator prior to use of the portable electronic device at any time when such use would otherwise be prohibited by this policy. ~~In case of an emergency, verbal permission by a teacher or administrator is required in situations where permission can be obtained.~~

Conditions of Use – Cellular Phones

Students may use cellular phones only before and after school, regardless of grade level. Devices must be powered off and put away at all other times.

(cf. 6116 – Classroom Interruptions)

Students will comply with this policy and with administrative and staff member directives regarding use. Students are required to turn cell phones and other electronic communication devices over to school personnel when requested. Students who refuse to do so are subject to disciplinary action.

A cellular phone or electronic communication device that has been confiscated by the district and not turned over to law enforcement will be released/returned to the parent/guardian when no longer necessary for investigation or disciplinary proceedings. As appropriate, the cellular phone or portable electronic device may be returned directly to the student.

The district assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to personal property of students, including cell phones and other electronic communication devices, whether in the possession of students or if confiscated by school personnel pursuant to this policy.

Prohibited Conduct

Possession of a cellular phone or other electronic communication device by students is a privilege. This privilege will be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of the device so as to violate the law or any other school or district rule. In addition to those conduct rules set forth elsewhere, the following actions are strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action:

1. Accessing and/or viewing an Internet site that is otherwise blocked to students at school.
2. Sending an e-mail, text message or other communication that harasses, intimidates, threatens, bullies, or discriminates against another individual.
3. Taking, sending, downloading or uploading a harassing, threatening, or inappropriate photograph of anyone.
4. Using a cell phone/smartphone or camera to take photos/videos in a restroom, dressing room, or locker room, or to take a photo/video of any person who has requested that you not do so.
5. Using a camera or other recording device to record or capture the content of tests, assessments, homework, or class work without express prior permission from the instructor.
6. Hacking or intentionally obtaining, accessing, or modifying files, passwords, or data belonging to others.

Exceptions and Permitted Use

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to prohibit the use of cellular phones or other electronic communication devices when used for medical or translation purposes, or when a teacher or administrator of the school grants permission for a student to use a cellular phone or electronic communication device for educational purpose.

(cf. 5131 – Conduct)

(cf. 5131.4 – Campus Disturbances)

(cf. 5131.41 – Violent and Aggressive Conduct)

(cf. 5131.42 – Threats of Violence)

(cf. 5131.43 – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying)

(cf. 5131.9 – Academic Honesty)

(cf. 5137 – Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6161.4 – Internet)

(cf. 6161.5 – Web Sites/Pages)

Searches

The contents of a cell phone/smartphone, camera, or other electronic communication device may be searched to determine ownership, to identify emergency contacts, or upon reasonable suspicion of administration that a school or district rule or the law has been violated.

(cf. 5145.12 – Search and Seizure)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.33.300 *Wireless telecommunications device policy*

Revised 06/2012

Reviewed 04/2015

Reviewed 09/2019

Reviewed 12/2021

Revised 12/2021

Revised 11/2025

Craig City School District