

Students

Student Handbook - Electronic Devices ¹

Electronic Signaling Devices ²

Students may not use or possess electronic signaling (paging) devices or two-way radios on school property at any time, unless the Building Principal specifically grants permission.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices ³

The possession and use of cellular phones, including smartphones, and other electronic devices, other than paging devices and two-way radios, are subject to the following rules:

1. They must be kept out of sight and in an inconspicuous location, such as a backpack, purse, or locker, unless use is authorized by the teacher or for the reasons in number two, below. 4
2. They must be turned **off or silenced** during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission for them to be used; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan; (c) the device is used during the student's lunch period; or (d) the device is needed during an emergency.
3. They may not be used in any manner that will cause disruption to the educational environment or will otherwise violate student conduct rules.
4. They may not be used for *sexting*, as defined in Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*. Any cellular phone or electronic device may be searched upon reasonable suspicion of sexting or other violations of policy. All sexting violations will require school administrators to follow student discipline policies in addition to contacting the police and reporting suspected child abuse or neglect when appropriate.

Electronic study aids may be used during the school day if:

1. Use of the device is provided in the student's IEP, or

¹ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.28, grants school boards the authority to “establish appropriate rules and disciplinary procedures governing the use or possession of cellular radio telecommunication devices by a student while in a school or on school property, during regular school hours, or at any other time.” The statute contains no mandates. School boards that adopted policies prohibiting students from using or possessing any cell phones on school property must amend those policies before using this sample student handbook language about cell phones and electronic devices.

Some boards may prefer to maintain their ban on cell phone and pager use and possession on school grounds. With the advent of sexting, bans on cell phone and electronic device usage during school hours are viable sexting prevention options. If so, the administration should not change the student handbook's language with the use of this sample language.

² 105 ILCS 5/10-21.10 still prohibits student possession of electronic paging devices unless the school board has expressly authorized use or possession of the device or similar electronic paging device by a student when in a school building or on school property.

³ The School Code does not define *electronic device*, but the Juvenile Court Act provides guidance in its definition of an *electronic communication device*, and the Criminal Code of 2012 provides guidance in its definition of *computer*. Electronic communication device includes, but is not limited to, electronic devices, wireless telephones, personal digital assistants, or portable or mobile computers, that are capable of transmitting images or pictures. 705 ILCS 405/3-40(a). Computer means a device that accepts, processes, stores, retrieves, or outputs data and includes, but is not limited to, auxiliary storage, including cloud-based networks of remote services hosted on the Internet, and telecommunications devices connected to computers. 720 ILCS 5/17-0.5.

Wireless telephone is synonymous with *cellular telephone* (see www.thesaurus.com, listing cellular and wireless telephones as synonyms). Because the terms are synonyms, an electronic communication device also includes a cellular telephone. While the definition of electronic communication device at 705 ILCS 405/3-40(a) appears to make using *cell phone*, *electronic device*, and *computer* redundant, this sample will continue to use *cell phones* and *electronic devices* for simplicity. Change the subhead to *electronic communication devices* if the district wants to use one term.

⁴ Delete this sentence if the board has deleted the *out-of-sight* limitation from board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*. See sample policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, at f/n 16.

2. Permission is received from the student's teacher; e.g., Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) programs.

Examples of electronic devices that are used as study aids include: devices with audio or video recording, MP3 players, some cellular phones, smartphones, laptop computers, Chromebooks®, and tablet computers or devices, e.g., iPads®.

Examples of electronic devices that are **not** used as study aids include: hand-held electronic games, MP3 players used for a purpose other than a study aid, global positioning systems (GPS), radios, and cellular phones, including smartphones (with or without cameras), used for a purpose other than a study aid.

The use of technology as educational material in a curriculum-based program is not a necessity but a privilege, and a student does not have an absolute right to use his or her electronic device while at school. If applicable, using technology as a study aid must always follow the established rules for the BYOT program. Using technology at all other times must always follow the established rules for cellular and smartphones and other electronic devices at school.

The School District is not responsible for the loss or theft of any electronic device brought to school.

Approved: