

**BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Bloomfield, Connecticut**

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**BOARD POLICY**

**5131.81 (a)**

**Students**

**Electronic Devices**

The Bloomfield Board of Education is committed to maintaining a safe and productive learning environment that provides each student with an atmosphere free of disruptions.

Students may possess personal technological devices on school property and/or during school sponsored activities per the mandates of this policy and any applicable administrative regulations as may be developed by the Superintendent of Schools.

**Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, "District-Issued Technology" refers to computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources owned and/or used by the school district and accessible by students including "Personal Technology" pouches.

For the purposes of this policy, "Personal Technology" 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, gaming, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving or storing information or data, etc. In addition, "Personal Technology" refers to Bluetooth devices and wearable technology, such as, but not limited to, iPads, tablets, smartwatches, gaming devices, and AirPods.

**Responsibility for "Personal Technology" Devices**

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their "Personal Technology." If "Personal Technology" is stolen, lost, or damaged, a report should be made to the building principal or designee, 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 "Personal Technology" stolen, lost, or damaged while at school or during a school sponsored activity. Therefore, students are advised not to share or loan their "Personal Technology" with other students.

**Use of "Personal Technology" Devices**

Except to the extent required by a student's Individualized Educational Plan or 504 plan and/or for other reasons approved by the building principal, all students are prohibited from using "Personal Technology" during the school day and are subject to disciplinary action outlined in section "D" of this policy.

In addition, the following rules apply specifically to student use of cell phones during the school day:

1. Students in grades 5-12 may bring "Personal Technology" to school but must ensure that it is turned off, in Airplane mode, or silenced. When entering the school, "Personal Technology" must be locked in a district-issued "Personal Technology" pouch and kept there the entire school day. Students will unlock their district-issued pouch at dismissal.

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2. Students in grades PK-4 may bring “Personal Technology” to school but must ensure that it is turned off, in Airplane mode, or silenced. “Personal Technology” must remain completely out of view for the entire school day and cannot be used at any time.

**Disciplinary Action\***

Misuse of “Personal Technology” in an inappropriate or prohibited manner and/or using such devices in any manner inconsistent with this policy will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the most current student handbook under the section entitled “Personal Technology.” Disciplinary action will follow a tiered approach.

At each tier, the administrator or designee will review the policy with the student, inform parents/guardians, and document the offense.

If a student loses or damages the district-issued “Personal Technology” pouch, the student must acquire a new one from the school.

\*Administrators have flexibility with consequences for students who fall under DCF Care, McKinney-Vento, and similar circumstances.

**Legal Reference:**

Connecticut General Statutes (P.A. 95-304, S.8, 9; P.A. 96-108, S. 1, 3)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233j

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a250, et seq.

History: P.A. 95-304 effective July 1, 1995; P.A. 96-108 designated the existing Sec.

Subsec (a) and added Subsec (b) re cellular mobile telephones, effective July 1, 1996

Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986, Public Law 99-508, codified at

28 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520