

STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students may possess personal wireless communication devices (WCDs), (e.g., cellular phones, including SmartPhones and Blackberrys, TabletPCs, iPods, iPads, **E-Readers**, netbooks, etc.) on school district property and at school-related functions. Even though a student may possess these devices, use is restricted and must adhere to the following conditions:

- A. Use of WCDs is prohibited during school hours, except in case of an emergency, or at times designated by the administration in a building. Use of WCDs is permitted before and after school hours at all buildings. When the use of WCDs is prohibited during school hours, they must be powered off (e.g., not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight. **However, technology including, but not limited to, WCDs intended and actually used for instructional purposes (e.g., taking notes, researching online, writing papers) will be permitted, as approved by the classroom teacher or the building principal.**
- B. Consult student handbook for specific guidelines.

WCDs, with cameras or any other recording capabilities, may not be activated or utilized at any time in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists, except in case of an emergency. These locations and circumstances include, but are not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, locker rooms, shower facilities, rest/bathrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes. The District Administrator and building principals are authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where use of a WCD is absolutely prohibited.

Students are prohibited from using WCDs to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e., audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity, without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. Using a WCD to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted, unless authorized by the building principal. Students who violate this provision and/or use WCDs to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their WCDs confiscated and held until the end of the school year.

Under normal circumstances, students may use WCDs while riding to and from school on a school bus or other vehicle provided by the School Board. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.

During after school activities, when directed by the administrator or sponsor, WCDs shall be powered completely off, not just placed into vibrate or silent mode, and stored out of sight.

The requirement that WCDs must be powered completely off will not apply in the following circumstances when the student obtains prior approval from a building administrator:

- A. the student is a member of a volunteer fire company/department, ambulance or rescue squad.
- B. the student has a special health circumstance (e.g., an ill family member, or his/her own special health condition).
- C. the student is using the WCD for an approved instructional purpose with the teacher's permission and supervision. **In no circumstances shall the WCD be allowed to connect to the District's network.** The preceding prohibitions do not apply to Board-owned and issued WCDs or authorized assistive technology devices.

No expectation of confidentiality will exist in the use of WCDs on school premises/property.

Students are prohibited from using WCDs in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Policy 5600, Student Discipline. In particular students are prohibited from using their WCDs to: (1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs; and (2) send, share, view or possess pictures, text messages, e-mails or other materials of a sexual nature (i.e., sexting) in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.

Students are also prohibited from using WCDs to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using their WCDs to receive such information.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their WCDs. The School Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to WCDs brought onto its property, or the unauthorized use of such devices.

Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office. Students may use school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

Possession of personal wireless communication devices by a student is a privilege, which may be forfeited by anyone who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Students may not use WCDs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet web sites that are otherwise blocked to students at school.

A person who discovers a student using a WCD in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to a building administrator.

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NEW from NEOLA

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