

Students

Electronic Devices

The Board of Education adopts this policy in order to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure for district students and employees.

The Board of Education recognizes that cell phones and other electronic devices can play a vital communication role. However, the ordinary use of cell phones in school situations can be disruptive to the educational environment.

While certain electronic communication devices are allowed in school, the following regulations apply:

- Cellular telephones and pagers/beepers shall be turned off in all academic wings and at any school sponsored events where there is a reasonable expectation of quiet attentiveness or where use of the device would cause any disruption.
- Devices operated in violation of this rule shall be confiscated. Such devices must be retrieved from a building administrator by a parent or guardian.
- Students found to be using any electronic communications device in any way to send or receive personal messages, data, or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on tests or examinations shall be subject to discipline. The device shall be confiscated and not returned until a parent conference has been held with a building administrator.
- Students found to be using any electronic communications device in violation of these rules shall be subject to disciplinary action. Where appropriate, police authorities may be contacted.

Building administrators shall have the authority to further restrict possession of electronic communication devices in their individual buildings in order to maintain the principles of this policy and consistent with the unique circumstances of their individual schools or grade levels.

At the secondary level, building administrators shall have the authority to permit use of electronic communication devices as a tool for teaching and learning.

Should a device be confiscated for violation of this policy, the student's parent or guardian must pick up the device from the school. By this policy, parents and/or guardians are on notice that confiscated devices that are not claimed by the end of the school year shall be disposed of appropriately.

Students

Electronic Devices (continued)

The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, emailing or sexting, etc.) may constitute a crime under State and/or Federal law. Any person taking, disseminating or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under this policy/code of conduct and reported to law enforcement and/or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and lifetime inclusion on sexual offender registries.

Exceptions

The building administrator may grant approval for possession of an electronic device that is always turned on, such as a telephone paging device/beeper, for the following reasons:

1. Student is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.
2. Student has a need due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.
3. Other reasons deemed appropriate by the building Principal.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.8 - Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.911 - Bullying)

(cf. 5131.913 - Cyberbullying)

(cf. 5145.5 - Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices
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)

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NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut