

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

The School Board recognizes that many students possess and use cell phones and other portable electronic devices. 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 portable electronic 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 portable electronic 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 portable electronic 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

Note: School boards may select one of the two options for the use of cellular phones in schools. These conditions may be modified as desired.

(Option 1): High school students (grades 9 - 12) may use cellular phones and other personal portable electronic devices before and after school, during passing periods, and during the student's lunch period. Elementary and middle school students (grades K-8) may use such devices only before and after school. Devices should be powered off and put away at all other times.

(Option 2): Students may use cellular phones and other personal portable electronic devices only before and after school. Such devices should be powered off and put away at all other times.

Cellular phones shall be powered off during instructional time and supervised group activities during the school day (for example, student assemblies, awards, or other public ceremonies, etc.), unless authorized by supervising personnel.

Instructional time includes the entire period of a scheduled class and other time when students are directed to report to and participate in any instructional activity. The principal may establish, and school personnel may enforce, additional guidelines limiting or prohibiting the possession and use of portable electronic devices as appropriate to campus needs. The learning environment includes all times that a student is on school grounds during the school day and when school sponsored and supervised group activities are held.

No student may use a cellular phone or portable electronic device in a manner, or at a time, that interferes with or is disruptive of another student's learning environment. The learning environment includes all times that a student is on school grounds during the school day and when school sponsored and supervised group activities are held.

(cf. 6116 – Classroom Interruptions)

During the school day and instructional time, students will comply with this policy and with administrative and staff member directives regarding use. Students are required to turn cell phones and other portable electronic devices over to school personnel when requested. Students who refuse to do so are subject to disciplinary action.

A cellular phone or portable electronic 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 portable electronic 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 portable electronic 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 in a restroom, dressing room, or locker room, or to take a photo 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 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 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 portable electronic device may be searched to determine ownership, to identify emergency contacts, or upon reasonable suspicion 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

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Craig City School District