



Title: **Electronic Devices**

Code: 235

Section: Section 200 - Pupils

Purpose

The Board adopts this policy in order to support an educational environment that is orderly, safe and secure for school students and employees. While electronic devices may provide a positive contribution when used for educational purposes, the Board recognizes that whether intentional or not, the use of electronic devices may create a social, intellectual and emotional barrier to being fully present during school and cause disruption to the education process.

Definition

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record, play or edit audio or video data, including headphones and electronic listening earpieces; store, transmit or receive calls, messages, text, data or images; gaming devices; operate online applications; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.

Personal Electronic Devices – are electronic devices that are owned by the student.

Authority

The Board prohibits students from using electronic devices not issued by the school during the school day (arrival on school property until dismissal) in school buildings, on school property, and during the time students are under the supervision of the school

The Board prohibits use of all electronic devices, personal or school-issued, in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites, and other changing areas at any time.

Personal electronic devices must be silenced and stored in a student's bookbag or locker at all times during the school day.

Students are prohibited from establishing a “mobile hotspot” for themselves or otherwise permitting other users to use their personal electronic device as a technological means to gain access to Internet resources or websites.

Use of electronic devices to threaten and/or bully another student, school employee or another third party shall subject the student to discipline pursuant to the school’s terroristic threats and bullying policies.

“Sexting”, that is, the electronic transmission of inappropriate sexual photographs of one’s self or others via cell phones or other electronic devices has become a problem in schools. Any student found to have sent and/or received inappropriate photographs of a sexual nature, shall be subject to disciplinary consequences, and may also be referred to local law enforcement authorities for possible criminal violations.

The school shall not be liable for the loss, theft, damage, unauthorized use or misuse of any electronic device brought to school by a student.

If devices are loaned to or borrowed and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation.

Exceptions

The CEO or designee may authorize a student to possess and use an electronic device for reasons they deem essential, for instance, for health, safety or emergency reasons, or when use is provided for in a student’s individualized education program (IEP). The Board reserves the right to request periodic updates on the exceptions that have been granted.

Other Personal Electronic Devices

Personal electronic devices such as smart watches may be worn but are not permitted to be used beyond a time telling function during the school day.

Electronic Images and Photographs

The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing. Because such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law, the school may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Delegation of Responsibility

The CEO or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and employees about the Board's electronic device policy. The CEO or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. Building principals shall ensure building specific guidelines consistent with this policy are included in the Student Handbook.

Guidelines

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the electronic device.

REFERENCE

24 P.S. 1317.1

24 P.S. 510

Pol. 815

Pol. 218

Pol. 233

Pol. 207

Pol. 218.2

Pol. 113

18 Pa. C.S.A. 5703

18 U.S.C. 2510 et seq

47 U.S.C. 254

24 P.S. 4601 et seq

24 P.S. 1303.1-A