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| **Franklin County Board of Education** | | | |
| Monitoring:  **Review: Annually, in September** | Descriptor Term:  **Use of Cell Phones and other Communication Devices** | Descriptor Code:  **6.312** | Issued Date:  **05/08/23** |
| Rescinds:  **6.312** | Issued:  **01/13/20** |

**DEFINITIONS**

A “personal communication device” (PCD) is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor, can be used as a camera, a recorder, a video/sound player, or any such item that electronically transmits or receives a signal, image, sound file, data file or message.

PCDs and personal electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, tablets, gaming devices, laptops, mp3 players, cameras, any wearable technology that can record, live stream or interact with wireless technology on school property.

“Use” means interacting, displaying, engaging with, holding, or operating a PCD and/or personal electronic device. Use shall include the device ringing, vibrating, beeping, or causing any type of disruption. Use shall also include passively recording, filming, streaming, broadcasting, AirDropping, or Quick Sharing.

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Communication devices (including, but not limited to, cell phones) are not allowed unless the principal allows for special circumstances. This will be determined on a case by case basis.

**Use by Students in Grades 6-12**

Students may possess PCDs while on school property. The devices may be used before and after school, during lunch periods and during class transition times. The PCD must not be in use during class times. The principal or the principal’s designee may grant a student permission to use a PCD during class time for a specific academic purpose or at other times for other purposes that the principal deems appropriate. PCD shall not be used to record, film, stream, broadcast, AirDrop, Quick Share, and/or video school personnel or students without the principal/principal designee’s permission.

**VIOLATION OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND/OR ELECTRONIC**

**DEVICES**

Any school employee who discovers a student using, assessing, or displaying a PCD or electronic device in violation of this policy shall report the violation.

Students must adhere to the Franklin County Board of Education’s Acceptable Use Policy when using PCDs and personal electronic devices as permitted in this policy. Possession of PCDs and/or personal electronic devices under the circumstances set forth in this policy is a privilege which may be forfeited by a student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy.

A PCD used outside these parameters may result in confiscation of the PCD until it can be released directly to the student’s parent or guardian. A student who possesses a PCD, in violation of this policy, is subject to related disciplinary action. Continued violation of this policy may result in loss of PCD privileges. Additionally, students may lose PCD privileges for any policy violation that is related to or is the result of the use of a PCD whether or not the PCD was used within the parameters of this policy.

The Franklin County Board of Education, its schools, nor its employees assume responsibility or liability for the loss or damage to any student’s personal communication device, or for the unauthorized use of a student’s personal communication device.

**INAPPROPRIATE USE OF PCD AND/OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

In addition to the parameters established above, use of a PCD or other electronic device to bully, harass or intimidate others will be subject to related disciplinary action. Using a PCD or other electronic device for any illicit activity including but not limited to take, disseminate, transfer, or share obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images, photographs, or similar material whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under State and/or Federal law. Any student taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, illegal, or otherwise inappropriate images or photographs of other students or any other individual, particularly underage, at school, on a school bus or while attending any school event or activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school district and reported to law enforcement and other appropriate State or Federal agencies.