

UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Category: R

Student use of cell phones, camera phones, pagers, beepers, and other similar electronic communication devices is strictly prohibited during the school day. This includes lunch periods, passing periods, as well as on school sponsored trips and driver education classes. Such devices are to be kept in student's backpack with the power turned off. The Board recommends that these devices not be brought to school.

Additionally, it is prohibited for students to take, store, disseminate, transfer, view, or share obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and e-mailing. Any student found to have engaged in such conduct may be reported to local law enforcement authorities and may face criminal penalties in accordance with applicable law. School administrators may refer such matters to local law enforcement if the administrator believes student action in this regard involves illegal activity (e.g., pornography.)

The Board may grant an exception to this policy for medical or emergency reasons only. This exception requires a written report from the student's medical provider explaining the need for the exception.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities or athletics must contact their sponsor or coach for his/her rules involving cell phone use after hours or on after-school bus trips. Sponsors and coaches will set their rules and establish their consequences for the use and/or misuse of these devices.

The school district will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any electronic communication device brought to the school.

Consequences for Violating this Policy

- **First Offense** – the device will be held in the Administration office until the end of the school day. Students may pick up their phone following a behavioral contract review of this policy at the end of the school day in the main office.
- **Second Offense** – the device will remain in the main office until the end of the school day and a parent will have to pick it up; if a parent is unavailable, the phone will remain in the office until it is picked up by a parent.
- **Third Offense & Subsequent Offenses** – The device will remain in the main office until the end of the school day and a parent will have to pick it up; if a parent is unavailable, the phone will remain in the office until it is picked up by a parent. Students who repeatedly violate this policy may face more severe punishment. This may include In school detention, in school suspension or out of school suspension. Suspension will not exceed 5 days.

***It should be noted that refusal to surrender a cell phone or other electronic device when directed to do so by a school staff member, teacher, or administrator is insubordinate behavior and is punishable by suspension and exclusion from school events.**

Colebrook School Board Adopted: August 27, 2024

SAU School Board: Recommended Revisions – August 8, 2024

SAU Policy Committee: Recommended Revisions – July 10, 2024

Colebrook School Board: Adopted – April 16, 2019

SAU #7 Policy Committee: Recommended for Adoption – October 25, 2018