

Electronic Devices

Use of Cellular Telephones and Smart Devices, including Smart Watches

The Board of Education recognizes that cell phones and Smart Devices can play a vital communication role during emergency situations. However, the ordinary use of cell phones and Smart Devices in school situations can be disruptive to the educational environment and is not acceptable. Smart Device technology allows students to take digital photographs or digital video, record conversations, and may be used to text message other students. Smart Devices can have disruptive applications in the educational process. Emergency phones are available for student use at the school office and may be accessed by gaining permission from school staff and administrators.

The District prohibits the use of all electronic communications devices, including cellular phones and associated cameras, including Smart Watches, at all school and school-sponsored or school-related activities on or off school property, during the instructional day. This includes text messaging, silent mode, picture taking, or any other use. Cell phones/Smart Devices may not be used before school, during lunch, after school, or on the buses.

Under no circumstances shall students use or access electronic devices during emergency drills, assemblies, or other school evacuations.

During the instructional day, cell phones and/or other electronic communication devices or accessories (earbuds, headphones, etc.) should remain concealed and turned off.

During periods of testing and other student evaluations, teachers may request that students remove all devices from their possession, either by returning the devices to lockers or by placing them outside the direct possession of the student. Any use of an electronic communication device during testing will be considered cheating and will be addressed accordingly.

Building principals may grant individual students permission to use electronic communications devices during the instructional day upon advance approval based on unique circumstances or in cases of emergency.

The sending, sharing, viewing or possessing pictures, emails, or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form on a cell phone or other electronic device is prohibited in the school setting and is subject to disciplinary action.

Should a student be observed using an electronic communication device, or if a device rings or beeps during the instructional day, disciplinary action will be taken, including (but not limited to) confiscation of the device and other options for student discipline as reasonable under the circumstances.

Should a device be confiscated for violation of this policy, the student's parent or guardian may pick up the device from the school after showing proof of ownership and following a conference with the building

administrator. 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 *are* authorized to use cell phones when they are on board-approved field trips *away from school*, as long as they are under adult supervision.

The District shall not assume responsibility for devices that are damaged, lost or stolen when brought to school or after being confiscated for violation of this policy.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

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