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## 5516- USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDING DEVICES

The Board of Education recognizes the educational value in utilizing Electronic Mobile Devices as instructional tools. With the rapid expansion of the use of Electronic Mobile Devices in our society, the Board feels it is imperative its students be educated and receive guidance on how to properly use these tools for educational purposes. Utilized correctly, Electronic Mobile Devices can enhance the learning environment while allowing the District and its students to remain current with the various uses of technology for educational purposes. Conversely, the Board recognizes that the inappropriate use of such devices may constitute a disruption to the educational process and, in some cases, a violation of personal privacy. It is expected that the District's instructors will exercise sound professional judgment when deciding how to incorporate and utilize student use of Electronic Mobile Devices in the classroom. Accordingly, and when permitted by classroom instructors, the use of Electronic Mobile Devices for legitimate educational and instructional purposes by students will be permitted so long as students observe and abide by the conditions and guidelines set forth in this Policy and their classroom instructor.

### Definitions

For purposes of this Policy, "Electronic Mobile Devices" are any devices with the capability to access a data network for communication and content retrieval. This includes but is not limited to smart phones, tablets, and laptop computers.

For purposes of this Policy, the "instructional day" shall begin with the bell to report to first period and include, but not be limited to, lunch breaks, classroom changes, study halls and any other structured or non-structured activity that occurs during the normal school day.

### Student Use of Electronic Mobile Devices in The Classroom

Students may utilize Electronic Mobile Devices in the classroom and during class time only with the express consent and permission of the classroom instructor and only in a manner that aligns to the instructor's educational and instructional objectives. In addition, students may only utilize the forms of communication and programs on the Electronic Mobile Devices that are permitted by the classroom instructor (i.e., internet access, text messaging, posting, programs, Apps, etc.).

The use of any Electronic Mobile Device that has recording capability, be it video, photo or any other electronic image and audio recording of any kind is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing rooms, bathrooms, or other areas of the school where there may be a reasonable expectation of personal privacy. Any use or attempted use of an Electronic Mobile Device to capture, record, or transfer the image of an individual in any stage of undress is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate referral to police and appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

Additionally, recording of any kind during classroom instruction or any classroom assessment is strictly prohibited and consequences will be determined as per the Student Code of Conduct. In the event a pupil violates this Policy, the Building Principal or designee will confiscate the device and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken as outlined in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

### **Contents of Electronic Mobile Devices**

The District reserves the right to examine any student's Electronic Mobile Device that is brought onto school grounds and search its contents if there is reasonable suspicion that District or Board policies, rules or regulations have been violated, as well as if there is a reasonable suspicion that the Electronic Mobile Device contains information that may be pertinent to a school investigation. Students who use their Electronic Mobile Device to violate District or Board policies, rules or regulations will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the District's Code of Conduct, and any suspected violation of State law will be referred to law enforcement authorities.

When the use of Electronic Mobile Devices are permitted by the classroom instructor, students will have access to a filtered Internet connection that is consistent with the Internet access that is available on other District technology equipment (i.e., computers and laptops) when used for legitimate educational and instructional purposes. Such use of the Internet by students on Electronic Mobile Devices must abide by the terms and conditions of the District's Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement. Students are not permitted to utilize outside networks, including those provided by data carriers through private data plans, while in school.

Notwithstanding the permission granted by the classroom instructor, the District reserves the right to prohibit access and/or the use of an Electronic Mobile Device if a student is found to have utilized the device in a manner that is not permitted by the classroom instructor, for a purpose deemed inappropriate. In this regard, the use of an Electronic Mobile Device will be considered inappropriate if the student's use:

- Causes a disruption to the educational environment;
- Invades the rights or privacy of others (including staff) at school;
- Involves illegal or prohibited conduct of any kind; or
- Violates any provision of the District's Student Code of Conduct, or the Board's Policies and Regulations.

In such cases, the Building Principal or his/her designee or classroom instructor may also confiscate the device. In such instances, the building administration will take appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

If the classroom instructor does not provide consent for the use of Electronic Mobile Devices, such devices must be stored away so that they cannot be seen (i.e., in pocket, case, purses, book bags, etc.) or heard (i.e., on silent mode or turned off). In the event a student is found using an Electronic Mobile Device in a classroom where the instructor has not provided consent, the

Building Principal or his/her designee may confiscate the device and take appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

### **Student Use of Electronic Mobile Devices Outside of the Classroom**

The District permits students to be in possession of Electronic Mobile Devices during the school day if the Electronic Mobile Device is not a disruption to the school environment. In the event a student is found using an Electronic Mobile Device inappropriately outside of the classroom during the instructional day, the Building Principal or his/her designee will confiscate the device and take appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the District's Student Code of Conduct. In this regard, the use of an Electronic Mobile Device will be considered inappropriate if the student's use:

- Causes a disruption to the educational environment;
- Invades the rights or privacy of others (including staff) at school;
- Involves illegal or prohibited conduct of any kind; or
- Violates any provision of the District's Student Code of Conduct, or the Board's Policies and Regulations.

Additionally, recording of any kind is strictly prohibited and consequences will be determined as per the Student Code of Conduct. In the event a pupil violates this Policy, the Building Principal or designee will confiscate the device and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken as outlined in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

Electronic devices that are intended solely for gaming and entertainment purposes are not permitted to be used within the school buildings during the instructional day, and, if brought into the school by students, must be deactivated and stored in their assigned hall lockers during the instructional day. In the event a student is found using an electronic device that is intended solely for gaming and entertainment purposes during the instructional day in violation of this Policy, the Building Principal or his/her designee will confiscate the device and take appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

Adopted: January 19, 2021