

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, including, but not limited to, posing a threat to academic integrity or violating confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual.

The Board of Education shall consider the special needs of parents and students in determining whether to restrict the student possession or use of cellular mobile telephones.

Students may be in possession of a cellular telephone. However, cellular telephones may not be turned on during the school day. Use of the device shall be limited to the period before classes begin in the morning and after the student's last class in the afternoon.

Except for situations involving a bona fide health or safety emergency, electronic communication devices are not to be used during class or instructional time, or during the passing time between classes, unless specific permission has been granted by the building Principal.

In no case will any personal communication device be allowed to be in use during the school day that provides for a wireless, unfiltered electronic connection to the Internet, transmission of text or voice, or which has the capacity to take photographs of any kind. Standard photographic equipment is permitted with teacher and subject permission.

Students may possess and use a paging device if the student or his parent or guardian establishes to the satisfaction of the Principal that a reasonable basis exists for the possession and use of the device such as: a disabled student using cellular phone portable pagers/cellular phones for medical reasons; visitors on school property for an authorized program, meeting or function; a student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad; or a student who has the need due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.

A "paging device" is defined as a telecommunications device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor. A "portable telephone" is defined as a cellular phone or comparable communication device that is not connected to a standard telephone outlet or permanent connector.

Students shall not use a laser pointer and attachments, unless under teacher supervision for instructional purposes or a remotely activated paging device while on school property, on school transportation or while attending a school sponsored activity on or off school property.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES (continued)

“Walkie Talkies,” portable CB radios, portable “HAM” radios, portable police scanning devices, or portable games or toys that transmit a signal more than 20 feet or through walls, shall not be used or turned on during the school day under any circumstances unless proof is offered that such a device is necessary for health emergency purposes and permission is granted for their use by the building Principal.

A person who discovers a student in possession of a laser pointer or a paging device, without the written permission of the Principal, or using or having a mobile phone in the “on” position during the regular school day, without the approval of the Principal, shall report the violation to a school administrator who shall confiscate the device and contact the parent/guardian. Once seized, the Board of Education acting through the Superintendent retains the right to inspect the cell phone to determine whether it was used in violation of Board of Education policy. Repeated violation of this policy shall result in confiscation of the device, parent(s)/guardian(s) contacted for retrieval of the device, disciplinary consequences and/or the scheduling of a meeting related to the incident.

Students found to be using any electronic communications device in any way to send or receive personal messages, data, or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on tests or examinations shall be subject to discipline and the device shall be confiscated and not returned until a parent conference has been held. Students violating this rule will be disallowed from carrying any personal communication device following the incident unless a bona fide health emergency exists.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

The administration shall promulgate rules to enforce this policy at the building level.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices
 PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety
 PA 96-108 An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the
 Establishment of Graduation Dates
 PA 99-256 An Act Concerning AAC Laser Pointer