

Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media - Staff

Staff possession or use of personal electronic devices on district property, in district facilities during the work day and while the staff is on duty in attendance at district-sponsored activities may be permitted subject to the limitations set forth in this policy and consistent with any additional school rules as may be established by the superintendent. At no time will a personal electronic device be used in a manner that interferes with staff duty and responsibility for the supervision of students or in any manner that violates state or federal law.

A “personal electronic device” is a device, not issued by the district, capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing and/or displaying information and data.

Personal electronic devices shall be silenced during instructional time, while on duty or at any other time where such use of the device would cause a disruption of school activities or interfere with work assignment. Devices which have the capability to take photographs or record video or audio may be used for such purposes while on district property or while a staff member is on duty at district-sponsored activities, unless it is used in a manner that violates the acceptable use policy or when parents revoke permission to allow photographing or videotaping of their children. Computers, tablets, iPads or similar devices brought to school will be restricted to academic activities during on duty time.

Stolen and vandalized personal electronic devices brought to district property and district-sponsored activities shall first be submitted to the staff member’s personal insurance before submission to the district for reimbursement.

Staff members, while on duty and off duty, will utilize social media websites, public websites and blogs, judiciously by not posting confidential information about students, staff or district business.¹ Staff members, while on duty and off duty, will treat fellow employees, students (and their families) and the public with respect while posting on social media websites, etc., in order to prevent substantial disruption in school.

Communication with students using personal electronic devices will be appropriate and professional. Communication with students using personal electronic devices regarding non-school-related matters is prohibited during work hours and strongly discouraged at all other times. If communicating with students electronically regarding school-related matters, staff should use district e-mail using mailing lists to a group of students rather than individual students. Texting students during work hours is discouraged. Texting students while off duty is strongly discouraged.

¹Nothing in this policy is intended in any form to limit the right of employees to engage in protected labor activities via the use of social media.

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with superintendent or designee approval.

Staff members are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal for using a personal electronic device in any manner that is illegal or violates the terms of this policy. Staff actions on social media websites, public websites and blogs, while on or off duty, which disrupt the school environment, are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. A “disruption”¹ for purposes of this policy includes, but is not limited to, a threatened or actual negative impact on the learning environment. The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs, will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies.

Licensed staff are subject at all times to the Standards of Competent and Ethical Performance for Teachers.

The superintendent shall ensure that this policy is available to all employees.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 167.057](#)

[ORS 163.432](#)

[ORS 163.433](#)

[ORS 163.684](#)

[ORS 163.686](#)

[ORS 163.687](#)

[ORS 163.688](#)

[ORS 163.689](#)

[ORS 163.693](#)

[ORS 163.700](#)

[ORS 326.011](#)

[ORS 326.051](#)

[ORS 332.072](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 336.840](#)

[\[OAR 584-020-0000 to -0035\]](#)

Copyrights, Title 17, as amended, United States Code; 19 CFR Part 133 (2001).

Melzer v. Bd. Of Educ., City of New York, 336 F.3d 185 (2d Cir. 2003).

Ross v. Springfield Sch. Dist., No. FDA 80-1, aff'd, 56 Or. App. 197, rev'd and remanded, 294 Or. 357 (1982), order on remand (1983), aff'd, 71 Or. App. 111 (1984), rev'd and remanded, 300 Or. 507 (1986), order on second remand (1987), revised order on second remand (1988).

Cross Reference(s):

JHFF - Reporting Requirements Regarding Sexual Conduct with Students