

Personal Communication Devices and Social Media

Students may use and possess personal communication devices on district grounds subject to the following:

1. Personal communication devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, school programs or activities, or in a manner that violates law, Board policy, administrative regulation or school rules.¹
2. High School only: Unless authorized in advance by the building principal or designee for health or safety reasons, or in the event of an emergency situation that involves imminent physical danger, devices shall be turned on and operated only before or after the regular school day or between classes. Personal communication devices may also be used during the student's lunch break. Personal communication devices must be turned off and not be displayed in plain view during prohibited times of use. Personal communication devices are not to be used or displayed in classrooms or other instructional areas at any time.
3. Elementary only: Upon entering school grounds, cellular telephones, pagers and all other similar devices with wireless capability shall be turned off and stored out of sight until the end of the school day. At the end of the school day, these devices can be used outside of the school building.
4. Students are discouraged from using a personal communication device which allows for a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet while on district property or while the student is engaged in school-sponsored activities.¹ (See #8 through #11.)
5. Students are discouraged from using cellular telephones, or similar devices, which have the capability to take "photographs" or "moving pictures" while on district property or at school-sponsored events.¹ (See #8 through #11.)
6. The district shall not be responsible for loss, theft or damage to personal communication devices brought to district property or school-sponsored events.
7. Personal communication devices such as Palm Pilots, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and laptop computers, may be used as electronic study aids during the school day if provided as a part of a student's individualized education plan (IEP), or if permission is received from the student's teacher.

¹The 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, e-mailing, 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.

8. The use of personal communication devices in any way to send or receive messages, data or information that would pose a threat to academic integrity, contribute to or constitute academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited.
9. The use of personal communication devices in any manner that would violate the confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual is strictly prohibited.
10. Students shall comply with any additional school rules as established by the building principal and classroom rules as approved by the building principal concerning the appropriate use of personal communication devices.
11. Personal communication devices used in violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation or approved school rules will be confiscated, turned in to the school office and returned to the student or parent following parent notification, conference, detention, suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement officials as appropriate.
12. Students may not access social media sites using district equipment, while on district property or at district-sponsored activities unless the posting is approved by a district representative.

Consequences for violation of one or more of the above rules

Students are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for using a personal communication device in any manner that is academically dishonest, illegal or violates the terms of these rules. A referral to law enforcement officials may also be made. Personal communication devices brought to district property or used in violation of this policy are subject to confiscation and will be released to the student's parent or property owner, as appropriate.