

## **Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media**

Personal electronic devices must be used in a manner that does not interfere with professional duties, responsibilities or supervision of students or in a manner that violates school policy or state law. Staff members, while on duty and off duty, will utilize social network sites, public websites and blogs, judiciously by not posting confidential information about students, staff or school business. Staff members, while on duty and off duty will treat fellow employees, students and the public with respect while posting 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. While communicating with students electronically regarding school-related matters, staff should use the school e-mail and send communication to groups of students or include a colleague in the email, rather than communicating solely with individual students. Texting or e-mailing students while off duty is strongly discouraged with the exception of information related to educational, health, safety or emergency purposes. Using social media in or out of school should never cause a disruption to the learning environment.

Note: the taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise – commonly called texting, sexting, e-mailing may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and lifetime inclusion on sexual offender registries.

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones should not be used for personal or non-school related business while in the classroom or while in the presence of colleagues and students. If not needed for the lesson, cell phones should be silenced and messages checked outside of the classroom. As public employees, using work time and/or student contact time for personal/non-school business can be considered a misuse of work time, per the State Government and Ethics Laws.

END OF POLICY

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**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 336.840](#)

[ORS 338.115\(2\)](#)

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

Copyrights, Title 17, as amended, United States Code; 19 CFR Part 133 (2014).

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).