

Policy 5695 -STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Public Content

The Board of Education recognizes that students may have personal electronic devices that can perform different functions. These devices can create a significant distraction to the school environment and reduce student engagement. Additionally, in an emergency, the use of personal electronic devices can distract students from following the directions of staff or emergency responders, contribute to the spread of misinformation, create congestion in the emergency response system, and interfere with the district's emergency response protocols.

The district is not responsible for stolen, lost, or damaged personal electronic devices brought to school.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, "personal electronic devices" include all existing and emerging technology devices that can connect to or receive information from the Internet; take photographs; record or play audio or video; input text; upload and download media; and transmit or receive messages, telephone calls or images and include, but are not limited to, personal smart devices and electronics including, but not limited to, personal laptops and other computers; iPhone and Android smartphones; Bark phones and other smartphones with modified application menus and parental controls; wearables such as smartwatches; traditional cell phones and flip phones; portable storage media; all recording devices; iPods, iPads and other tablets; air pods and earbuds; and such other Internet connected devices and handheld devices that are available for use.

For the purposes of this policy, "school day" is defined as the entirety of the instructional day, during all instructional and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing time.

For the purposes of this policy, "school grounds" is defined as in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary lines of the School District's schools.

Procedures

The use of personal electronic devices as defined above by students during the school day, anywhere on school grounds, is prohibited, unless such use is included in a student's Individualized Educational Plan or 504 Plan.

- At the elementary school level, student personal electronic devices may not be brought to school
- At the middle school and high school level, students are strongly encouraged to leave all internet-enabled devices at home. Should students feel the need to bring internet-enabled devices to school, they will need to be turned off or silenced and stored in lockers for the entirety of the school day from the opening bell until dismissal in each school building.

Students may be permitted to use personal electronic devices during the school day on school grounds only under the following limited circumstances, at the discretion of the building administration:

- Educational Purposes – When authorized by a teacher, principal, or the school district for a specific educational activity.

- Healthcare Needs – When necessary for managing a student’s healthcare.
- Translation Services – When needed to access translation or interpretation services.
- Caregiving Responsibilities – for a student who is a caregiver and routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member.
- Legal Requirements – When use is required by law.

Exemptions and Exceptions

Parents or persons in parental relation may request an exemption for their children to use personal electronic devices during the school day for bona fide medical, educational, or disability-related reasons. Requests must be made to the building principal and must include documentation from an appropriate medical or educational professional. The district must first determine that a district-issued device cannot reasonably be used instead of the student’s personal electronic device. The least disruptive device possible may be used. If an exemption has been granted, personal devices may only be used for the purposes outlined in the exemption, and the device must be silenced and put away when not in use.

In emergency situations, exceptions to the prohibition of the use of personal electronic devices may be granted by teachers and administrators.

Parents/persons in parental relation to students must be permitted to contact students during the school day by leaving a message with the Main Office of the building where the student attends school to request a call back from the student.

Parents/persons in parental relation to students will receive written notification of the method(s) and phone number for contacting students upon enrollment and annually at the beginning of each school year.

Enforcement and Consequences

Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of all building staff, and all employees are expected to assist in modeling the behavior expected of students.

The School District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, limit use of, and/or confiscate personal devices when the Building Principal or designee has reasonable suspicion that a violation of this policy has occurred..

The School District is permitted to utilize consequences as outlined in the Code of Conduct should a student violate this policy; however, while students may not be suspended from school where the sole reason is that the student accessed an internet-enabled device on a single occasion in violation of this policy, a pattern of insubordination in violation of this policy and/or engaging in other misconduct while utilizing an internet-enabled device in violation of the Code of Conduct or Board of Education policy may result in discipline, up to and including suspension from school.

Electronic Devices and Testing

To ensure the integrity of testing, in accordance with state guidelines, students may not bring smartphones or other electronic devices into classrooms or other exam locations during state assessments. .

Test proctors, monitors, and school officials have the right to collect smartphones and other prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test and to hold them for the duration

of the test-taking time. Admission to the test will be prohibited to any student who has a cell phone or other electronic device in their possession and does not relinquish it. Students with Individualized Education Plans, Section 504 Plans, or documentation from medical practitioners specifically requiring use of electronic devices may do so as specified.

Policy Distribution and Translation

As required by law, the District will post this policy in a visible and accessible location on its website. Upon request by a student or parent/guardian, the District will translate this policy.