

Policy

CELL PHONES/TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Code: JCDAG

Latest Revision: 01/20/2022

This policy is intended to ensure that personal electronic devices on district and school property, including the school bus, do not interfere with the learning, safety and well-being of students and staff.

For the purposes of this policy, a personal electronic device is any device that emits any audible signal, vibrates, displays any message or video image, or is otherwise capable of sending, receiving, emitting, photographing, recording, storing or displaying any type of audio or visual communication, files, or data. This includes, but is not limited to, cellular phones, smartphones, earphones, camera phones, smart watches, camera devices, video and audio recording devices, digital recording devices, scanning devices, personal digital assistants, MP3 players, iPods, iPads, tablets, computers radios, pagers, any device that allows the possessor to access the Internet, or any similar device or any accessories to such devices such as earphones and Bluetooth devices.

Primary/Elementary Students

Primary or elementary students may not display or use a personal electronic device while on school property, including the school bus, or attending a school-related activity, whether on or off school property, during the school day. The student-owned device must be powered off during the school day.

The district will make an exception to this rule if the student needs the device for a legitimate medical reason. The principal must have written/approved evidence of the student's medical need on file.

Middle School Students

Students may possess or use personal electronic devices on school property until the beginning school day bell/signal. The device will also be allowed after school denoted by the ending school day bell/signal.

High School Students

Students may possess or use personal electronic devices on school property during the following times:

- **before the bell rings to begin the instructional school day**
- **after the dismissal bell at the end of the instructional school day**
- **during lunch while in the cafeteria**

While riding to and from school on a school bus or other vehicle provided by the board or on a school bus or board-provided vehicle during school-sponsored activities, these electronic devices are only to be used for silent activities such as reading, texting, games

with the sound muted or using headphones, or viewing web pages. Distracting behavior, to include talking on the phone to another individual, which creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.

All students are prohibited from using electronic and cellular devices to capture, record, or transmit the words/sounds (audio) and/or images (pictures/video) of any student, district employee, or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity without express, prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images by the student's principal, assistant principal, or district office administrator. Using a device to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted.

Students are prohibited from using devices to take pictures or record audio/pictures/video in locker rooms, bathrooms, hallways, or on school buses or other district vehicles. The use of devices to take pictures or record audio/video is also prohibited in classrooms.

Students are prohibited from using devices in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed, or intimidated pursuant to policy JI, Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying.

Students are also prohibited from using a device to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using device to receive such information.

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the device. The building administration and/or district office may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g., child pornography.) Discipline will be imposed in a progressive manner based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or the circumstances surrounding a particular violation. Any device confiscated by district employees will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location at the student's school until it is retrieved by the parent/legal guardian.

Devices in the custody of the administration will not be searched or otherwise tampered with unless school/district officials reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search of devices will be conducted in accordance with policy JCAB, Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests.

Consequences:

- First offense - Student warning; parent conference with administrator; device will be confiscated and returned at conference in which parent and student signs a memorandum of understanding outlining cell phone policy.

- Second offense – Electronic device will be confiscated for a total of five days; parent conference with an administrator in which parent and student will sign a memorandum of understanding outlining cell phone policy.

- Third offense – Electronic device will be confiscated for a total of 30 days; parent conference with an administrator in which parent and student will sign a memorandum of understanding outlining cell phone policy.

- Fourth offense and beyond – Electronic device will be confiscated for the remainder of the school year.

Note: Although the district will take appropriate steps to safeguard all cellular telephones and electronic devices that are confiscated, the district will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged devices.

Adopted October/ 2004; Revised: May/2012, April 20, 2017; May 17, 2018; October 18, 2018, February 11, 2020, January 20, 2022

Legal references:

S. C. Code, 1976 as amended:

Section 50-63-280- Possession of paging devices by public school students; mobile telephones included; adoption of policies.