

Students

Electronic Devices

Personal Technology Use in Schools/Cellular Phones/Electronic Communication Devices

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes that many students possess and use cellular telephones and other portable electronic devices. These ubiquitous devices serve an important purpose in facilitating communication between the student and his/her family, as well as serving as tools to access information electronically. In the school setting, such portable electronic devices are permitted, providing their use is consistent with this policy and does not distract from the educational process or interfere with safety and security.

There is a growing body of evidence that suggests student access to cellular telephones and other electronic communication devices may be detrimental to student emotional wellbeing and academic growth. Therefore, the use of electronic communication devices and other such technology at school is considered a privilege, not a right.

Students may possess cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices on school property and school-sponsored transportation, provided students adhere to the restrictions contained within this policy. Any unauthorized use of cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices during the instructional school day or at such times as not authorized by the school principal or designee is prohibited, as it disrupts the instructional program or distracts from the educational environment.

Orange Public School students may possess cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices (i.e., watches) on school property and school-sponsored transportation, provided such devices are not visible, used, or activated and are kept in the “off” position throughout the instructional school day. Students must keep their cellular phones and other wireless communication devices stored in a non-visible secure location until they return home.

A person who discovers a student with an electronic device without the written permission of the Principal, or using an electric device during the regular school day, without the approval of the Principal shall report the violation to a school administrator who shall confiscate the device and contact the parent/guardian.

1. Cellular telephones or other wireless communication devices, which have the capability to take photographs or videos, shall not be used for such purposes while on school property, transportation, or while a student is engaged in district-sponsored activities unless expressly authorized in advance by the principal or designee.

OR

2. The use of cellular telephones or other wireless communication devices in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including the use of the device to take photographs or videos on campus or off campus is strictly prohibited. Prohibited conduct specifically includes creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person.

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(continued)

Responsibility/Liability

Any student who chooses to bring a cellular telephone or other wireless communication device to school shall do so at his or her own risk and shall be personally responsible for the security of his or her cellular phone or wireless communication device. Neither the school personnel nor the Board will assume any responsibility or liability for loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to a cellular phone or other wireless communication device brought onto school property or for the unauthorized use of any such device.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131 – Conduct)

(cf. 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.82 – Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material)

(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)

(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)

(cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

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