

5136 - PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

For purposes of this policy, "personal communication device" refers to student owned electronic devices . Examples include: computers, tablets (e.g., iPads and similar devices), electronic readers ("e-readers"; e.g., Kindles and similar devices), cell phones (e.g., mobile/cellular telephones), smartphones (e.g., BlackBerry, iPhone, Android devices, Windows Mobile devices, etc.) smartwatches, smart glasses, wireless AirPods/earbuds/headphones, and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

Student owned fitness devices that are not web enabled, and do not connect to the Internet through another device, are allowed. These fitness devices must be silenced with no vibration. This is a privilege that may be revoked if a student fails to comply with this policy or abuses the privilege.

To avoid disruption of the educational environment and protect students' right to privacy, student use of personal communication devices (PCDs) is prohibited on school grounds during school hours.

Grades K-5

Students shall keep their PCDs silenced (no vibration) in a locker, teacher designated location, or backpack during school hours.

Grades 6 -12

Cell phones / smartphones must be silenced (no vibration) and secured inside a District-issued locking pouch during school hours. If a student forgets or does not have their pouch, the device must be turned in to the school office upon arrival, where it will be secured during school hours.

All other PCDs must be turned off, or silenced (no vibration), and secured in the student's locker, backpack, or districted issued locking pouch during school hours.

For All Students Grades K-12:

Students may use PCDs while traveling to and from school on a school bus or other Board-provided vehicle, as well as during school-sponsored activities on such transportation, at the discretion of the bus driver, classroom teacher, sponsor, advisor, or coach. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.

Students may use PCDs during after-school activities or school-related functions, provided they do not create a distraction, disruption, or otherwise interfere with the educational environment. Use of a PCD during after-school activities or school-related functions is a privilege that may be revoked if a student fails to comply with this policy or abuses the privilege.

Using a PCD to capture, record and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without proper consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted. Students who violate this provision and/or use a PCD to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their PCD confiscated and held until the end of the school day or a parent/guardian picks it up, and may be directed to delete the audio and/or picture/video file while the parent/guardian is present. If the violation involves potentially illegal activity, the confiscated-PCD may be turned-over to law enforcement.

The use of cameras (i.e., devices that take still or motion pictures, whether in a digital or other format) is prohibited in locker rooms, shower facilities, and/or rest/bathrooms.

Students shall have no expectation of confidentiality with respect to their use of PCDs on school premises/property.

Students may not use a PCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior. In particular, students are prohibited from using PCDs to: (1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, or political beliefs; and (2) engage in "sexting" - i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, e-mails or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.

Students are also prohibited from using a PCD to capture, record, 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 PCDs to receive such information.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the PCD. The building principal will also refer the matter to law enforcement or child services if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g., child pornography, sexting). Discipline will be imposed on an escalating scale ranging from a warning to an expulsion based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or circumstances surrounding a particular violation. If the PCD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed, unless the violation involves potentially illegal activity in which case the PCD may be turned-over to law enforcement. A confiscated device will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location in the building's central office until it is retrieved by the parent/guardian or turned-over to law enforcement. School officials will not search or otherwise tamper with PCDs in District custody unless they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search will be conducted in accordance with Policy 5771 – Search and Seizure. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privilege to bring a PCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.

A person who discovers a student using a PCD in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to the building principal.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their PCDs. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, or damage to, or misuse or unauthorized use of, PCDs brought onto its property.

Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office.

Students shall use school phones to contact parents or guardians during the school day. Students may use school phones to contact other parties when deemed appropriate by school staff or administration. Students shall not use PCDs to make calls, send texts, or send messages at any time during school hours.

Replacement of Lost or Damaged Pouch

If a student loses, damages, or destroys the District-issued locking pouch, the student or parent or guardian shall be charged a replacement fee. The fee shall be based on the actual replacement cost to the District rather than a punitive charge, taking into account the original purchase price, depreciation, and the current market price for an equivalent pouch.