

Personal Communication Devices and Social Media

Student possession or use of personal communication devices on district property, in district facilities during the school day and while the student is in attendance at district-sponsored activities may be permitted subject to the limitations set forth in this policy and consistent with any additional school rules as may be established by the principal and approved by the superintendent.

A “personal communication device” is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor of the device. These devices include, but are not limited to, walkie talkies, either long- or short-range portable radios, portable scanning devices, cellular telephones and pagers, other digital audio devices (iPODs), personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptop computers and similar devices with wireless capability.

Cellular telephones and pagers and other digital audio devices shall be turned off during instructional or class time or at any other time where such use of the device would cause a disruption of school activities. Cellular telephones which have the capability to take “photographs” or “moving pictures” shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or while a student is engaged in district-sponsored activities, unless as expressly authorized in advance by the principal or designee. Laptop computers and PDA’s brought to school will be restricted to classroom or instructional- related activities only. The district will not be liable for personal communication devices brought to district property or district-sponsored events.

Students may not access social media sites using district equipment, while on district property or at district-sponsored activities unless the posting is approved by a district representative. The district will not be liable for information/comments posted by students on social media websites.

Social media websites are websites such as, but not limited to, Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior principal or designee approval or when use is provided for in a student’s individualized education program (IEP).

Students are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for using a personal communication device in any manner that is academically dishonest, illegal or violates the terms of this policy¹. A referral to law enforcement officials may also be made. Personal communication devices brought to district property or used in violation of this policy are subject to confiscation and will be released to the student’s parent or property owner, as appropriate.

The superintendent shall ensure that the Board’s policy and any subsequent school rules developed by building administrators are reviewed and approved in advance to ensure consistency with this policy and

¹The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies.

that pertinent provisions of policy and rules are communicated to students and parents through building handbooks and other means.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

Copyrights, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101- 1332; 19 C.F.R. Part 133 (2006).