Students and Telecommunication Devices

Students in possession of telecommunications devices, including, but not limited to, pagers, beepers, and cellular phones, while on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities will observe the following conditions:

A. Students will be asked to NOT bring cell phones, Smart watches, ear buds, headphones, and all other electronics to school. Students seen using their phones and/or electronics at school will have them immediately taken away and placed in the safe in the high school office. Students must leave cell phones and all other devices in backpacks and locked in lockers. Cell phones, ear buds and electronic devices will not be allowed in classrooms, hallways, commons, gym, or restrooms. They will not be allowed in pockets or in notebooks. This policy will be in effect from the time students get to school in the morning until the end of the day when they leave campus.

B. Students will not use telecommunication devices in a manner that poses a threat to academic integrity, disrupts the learning environment, or violates the privacy rights of others;

C. Students will not send, share, view or possess pictures, text messages, emails or other material depicting sexually explicit conduct, as defined in RCW 9.68A.011, in electronic or any other form on a cell phone or other electronic device, while the student is on school grounds, at school sponsored events or on school buses or vehicles provided by the district;

D. When a school official has reasonable suspicion, based on objective and articulable facts, that a student is using a telecommunications device in a manner that violates the law or school rules, the official may confiscate the device, which will only be returned to the student’s parent or legal guardian;
E. By bringing a cell phone or other electronic devices to school or school-sponsored events, the student, and their parent/guardian consent to the search of the device when school officials have a reasonable suspicion, based on objective and articulable facts, that such a search will reveal a violation of the law or school rules. The scope of the search will be limited to the violation of which the student is accused. Content or images that violate state or federal laws will be referred to law enforcement;

F. Students are responsible for devices they bring to school. The district will not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of devices brought onto school property or to school sponsored events;

G. Students will comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning the appropriate use of telecommunication or other electronic devices; and

H. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

Cross References: 4310 - District Relationships with Law Enforcement and other Government Agencies
3241 - Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Action
3207 - Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
2022 - Electronic Resources

Management Resources: 2010 - October Issue
2010 - June Issue
Policy News, February 2004 Evolution of Cell Phone Use
Adoption Date:
Classification: **Encouraged**
Revised Dates: **2.04; 06.10; 10.10; 12.11; 7.19; 4.23**

© 2014-2019 Washington State School Directors’ Association. All rights reserved.