



Book	BHASD Policies
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Student Use of Electronic Devices
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## **237. STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

### **Purpose**

The Board recognizes that mobile phones and electronic devices are now an integral part of the daily lives and culture of many of the District's students. Nonetheless, the Board believes that students should have an educational environment free from unnecessary disruptions and distractions. The Board has determined that the presence of mobile phones and electronic devices has the potential to distract students from their educational mission and to otherwise disrupt the educational environment.

### **Authority**

The Board adopts this policy to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure and free from distractions for its students, while aiming to permit pupils to reasonably and responsibly utilize mobile technology. [7]

### **Definition**

**Electronic devices** shall include any personal communication device including mobile telephones and smartphones; any device that can capture still images or movies; any device that can record, store, display, transmit, or receive audio or video; personal digital assistants (PDA's); any device that can provide a connection to the internet (whether wireless, wired, 4G or LTE); laptops and tablet computers, smart watches, electronic gaming systems, pagers, e-readers, and laser pointers.

The Board prohibits the possession of laser pointers and telephone paging device/beeper by any student in district buildings and on district property, including on district buses and vehicles; and at activities, sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the District. A school administrator may grant an exception to this specific prohibition when a student is a member of a volunteer ambulance, fire, or rescue squad or where the student has a medical condition that necessitates the use of a paging device/beeper.[6]

The Board prohibits all students from any use of electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, and other changing areas.[8]

The Board prohibits the use of electronic devices to take photographs, or to record audio or video at any time during the school day or at any school sponsored event that is not open to the general public, unless the building administrator has authorized the photograph or recording by giving written consent, unless the use is authorized for educational purposes as outlined below.

### **ELEMENTARY/INTERMEDIATE/MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The board prohibits the **use of any** personal electronic devices by any Elementary/Intermediate/Middle School student while in district buildings, on district property and grounds including on district buses, and at school sponsored activities except as follows below. A personal electronic device that is possessed by

any student in school buildings or on district property must remain powered off and kept out of sight at all times except as follows below.

Exception:

- Students participating in after-school activities may use electronic devices under the following conditions:
  1. The electronic device must remain off during the after-school activity
  2. The electronic device may be turned on and used when authorized by the activity advisor, coach, or building administrator to make brief telephone calls to a parent or guardian, or other person providing transportation to the Student.
  3. Students may utilize electronic devices during arrival and dismissal procedures, including District on busses.
- Students may use electronic devices in the classroom during the school day for instructional purposes if, and only if, they have the prior permission of the teacher or building administrator to do so.

Advisors and coaches of extra-curricular activities shall have discretion to regulate and limit the use of electronic devices by students while participating in sports or extra-curricular activities, and school sponsored trips.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the ability of the building administrator or his/her designee to grant approval for the use of an electronic device by a student because of a student's urgent health or safety needs, or in the event of an emergency.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the provision or use of an electronic device as stated in an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Service Agreement.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

The board prohibits the **use of any** electronic devices by any High School student during instructional times during the school day (from the beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> period until the end of last period), which includes homeroom and study halls, except that students may use electronic devices during instructional times for instructional purposes if, and only if, they have the prior permission of the teacher or building administrator to do so.

Students in the High School are permitted to use electronic devices during non-instructional times including lunch periods, before school hours, after school hours, and between classes, so long as such use does not:

1. Disrupt school activities or instruction
2. Violate any other board or school policies
3. Violate state or federal law
4. Violate any of the prohibitions set forth elsewhere in this policy.

If an electronic device utilizes the District's internet connection, the School District's Acceptable Use Policy applies and is incorporated herein by reference.

Advisors and coaches of extra-curricular activities shall have discretion to regulate and limit the use of electronic devices by students while participating in sports or extra-curricular activities, and school sponsored trips.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the ability of the building administrator or his/her designee to grant approval for the use of an electronic device by a student because of a student's urgent health or safety needs, or in the event of an emergency.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the provision or use of an electronic device as stated in an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Service Agreement.

#### Loss or Damage to Electronic Devices

Students are solely responsible for the safe storage of any personal electronic devices that they choose to bring to school. The District shall not be liable or responsible for the loss or damage to any electronic

devices that a student brings to school, extracurricular activities, to school sponsored events or trips, or from the confiscation of an electronic devices as the result of a policy violation.

#### Student Responsibility for Data Charges

No Student shall be required to provide a personal electronic device as a condition of receiving educational instruction. If any Student chooses to utilize such a device pursuant to this policy, the Student and Parents assume full responsibility for any phone or data charges that may result from such use.

#### Limitation on Technical Support

District information technology staff may not provide technical assistance to Students for their personal devices. However, this policy shall not prohibit district information technology staff from providing general instructions for the configuration of such devices to access or connect to District-owned technology resources.

#### Penalties for Violations

The Board authorizes building administrators, teachers, and security personnel to confiscate a student's electronic devices when used in violation of this policy. All confiscated electronic devices shall be delivered promptly to the building administrator's office. Confiscated devices shall be returned to the student at the end of the school day for a first offense, and only to a parent or guardian for a second or subsequent offense.

Building administrators may impose additional disciplinary sanctions against students for violations of this policy, including suspensions from school or recommendations for expulsion from school as warranted by the specific facts and circumstances in a particular case.

#### **Guidelines**

The Superintendent or his/her designee may develop guidelines to implement this policy. The Superintendent shall ensure that students are made aware of this policy and any administrative guidelines by means of each school's student handbook, the District website, or other reasonable means of written communication.

#### References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1317.1

Board Policy – 113, 122, 123, 218, 233, 815

Legal

1. SC 510
2. Pol. 122, 123
3. Pol. 218
4. Pol. 218, 233
5. Pol. 113
6. SC 1317.1
7. 24 P.S. § 5-510
8. 18 Pa.C.S. §5703