

Telecommunication Devices

DEFINITIONS

Personal Telecommunication Device: A device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor, including but not limited to a paging device, cellular telephone, smart watches, etc.¹

TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY DEVICE A STUDENT IS AUTHORIZED TO USE PURSUANT TO THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT, THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, OR THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.

Instructional Time: Any time during the school day when students are engaged in learning activities under the supervision of school staff, including but not limited to classroom instruction, labs, field trips, outdoor learning, etc.

Non-Instructional Time: Time outside of classroom instruction, including but not limited to lunch breaks, passing periods, and before/after school, unless otherwise specified by school staff.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and consistent guidelines for telecommunications device use within the school district to:

- Foster a focused learning environment.
- Promote student well-being.
- Minimize distractions during instructional time.
- Teach and model responsible technology use.

POSSESSION AND USE

1. Personal telecommunication devices **may be brought to school, but must be turned off** and stored in a secured personal bag (backpack, purse, computer bag, etc.).
 - a. Instructional Time Use: Students are not permitted to use their telecommunication device(s) during instructional time.
 - b. Non-Instructional Time Use:
 - Elementary and Middle Schools: Telecommunication devices are not permitted at any time.
 - High Schools: Telecommunication devices are permitted during lunch, provided it does not disrupt the educational environment.
2. When students violate prohibitions of this policy, they shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Behavior and Discipline, which shall include losing the privilege of bringing the device onto school property and will be reported to their parent/guardian. A violation may also result in a report being made to law enforcement. In addition, an administrator may confiscate the device, which shall only be returned to the student's parent/guardian.
3. Students are responsible for keeping up with devices they bring to school. The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of devices brought onto school property.
4. Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning appropriate use of telecommunication or other electronic devices.

5. Students shall not utilize a telecommunication or similar electronic device in a manner that would violate the District's Acceptable Use policy or procedures or its Code of Student Behavior and Discipline.

RESPONSIBLE USE

During times when students shall be permitted to possess and use personal telecommunications devices as defined by law¹, board policy, and the Code of Student Behavior and Discipline, and other related electronic devices, they observe the following conditions:

1. Devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, including, but not limited to, use that:
 - a. Poses a threat to academic integrity, such as cheating;
 - b. Accesses social media unless authorized to do so by a teacher for an instructional purpose;
 - c. Violates confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual. This includes, but is not limited to, taking photographs, video, or audio recordings of others without the permission of the Principal/designee and the affected individual(s). An exception may be made for events considered to be in the public arena (e.g. sporting events, academic competitions, or performances to which the general public is admitted) where the activity does not materially disrupt the event, prevent others from observing the event, or otherwise violate legal rights. School social events for students, activities sponsored by student clubs, and activities during the school day that are not open to the public are not considered to be in the public arena;
 - d. Is profane, indecent, or obscene;
 - e. Constitutes or promotes illegal activity or activity in violation of school rules; or
 - f. Constitutes or promotes sending, sharing, or possessing sexually explicit messages, photographs, or images using any electronic device.

These restrictions shall not be interpreted to prohibit material protected under the state or federal constitutions where such material does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the education process or intrude upon the rights of others.

NOTICE OF POLICY

Notice of this policy and penalties for violating it shall be published annually in the District's Code of Student Behavior and Discipline.

REFERENCES:

- ¹KRS 158.165
- KRS 156.675
- KRS 525.080
- 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- 42 U.S.C. § 12101 Americans with Disabilities Act
- 29 U.S.C. § 701 Rehabilitation Act of 1973

RELATED POLICIES:

- 08.2323; 09.426; 09.436; 09.438