

JIKA—Use of Student Electronic Devices

Statement of Belief

The Board recognizes the benefit of technologically-based instructional strategies in the school environment yet acknowledges fiscal funding constraints that limit and even at times prohibits the introduction of technology in the classroom. To overcome this obstacle, in part, the Board authorizes students to bring their own electronic devices that will promote greater classroom accessibility to today's technology. However, unless there are clear guidelines and appropriate supervision, students' use of personal electronic devices during the instructional day can be disruptive to the learning environment. Therefore, students may only use personal electronic devices (PED) during the school day under the specific circumstances and conditions authorized in this policy.

These guidelines relate to any PED that could be used for communications or data storage and retrieval. For purposes of this policy, "personal electronic devices" are defined as personally owned and may include, but are not limited to:

- Calculators,
- Cellular telephones,
- Digital cameras,
- DVD players,
- Laptop computers,
- MP3 players,
- Personal digital assistants,
- Personal media devices,
- PS2s or other portable game consoles,
- Tablet computers, or
- USB drives.

Conditions for Possession of Personal Electronic Devices

In general, students are permitted to possess a personal electronic device in the school setting as long as the device remains stored, powered off, and unused:

- Throughout the entirety of the school day which includes the period of time between the beginning of the first class and end of the last class of the school day; and,
- In any school bathroom, locker room, or other dressing area at any time.

PEDs shall be considered stored if they are outside of view and reasonably secured according to school procedures (e.g. in a locker or backpack). Any headphone, earpiece, or similar equipment associated with a device shall also be stored and not worn.

Students who choose to possess a PED on school grounds do so at their own risk as to possible loss, theft, damage or liability. This is true even if the device has been

confiscated for violation of this policy. The School and its personnel shall not be liable for any loss, theft, or damage to a student's PED.

If there is reasonable suspicion that a student possesses on school grounds or on school authorized transportation a personal electronic device with information that violates the law or school policies, school officials may examine the device and search its contents relevant to the suspected violation. Such searches will be conducted in accordance with Policy JIH.

When Personal Electronic Devices May Be Used

A student may use a personal electronic device in the school setting in the following circumstances if they follow the described conditions:

1. **Emergencies.** Students may turn on and use cellular phones to place an emergency call to 911 if there is a situation that jeopardizes the safety of students or staff members. In addition, there may be emergent situations where school staff members direct students to use available cellular phones for other types of specific communication. In these situations students must follow the direction of staff members, understanding there are certain circumstances when they will be directed to keep cellular devices powered off for safety reasons. If the Administrator or his/her designee determines that a student in an emergency situation used the cellular phone appropriately, the School shall not discipline the student for such possession or use.
2. **Special Situations.** A student, or parent, or guardian may request in writing permission in advance from the Administrator or his/her designee for a student to possess and use a specified PED for a medical, educational, or other legitimate purpose that the Administrator or designee determines is necessary for the student's education or welfare. The Administrator's, or his/her designee's, decision on all such requests shall be final.
3. **Educational Purposes.** After obtaining the permission and direction of a teacher, a student may turn on and use PEDs while under the immediate supervision of the teacher for legitimate educational purposes. Such permission shall not extend to any area out of the immediate supervision of the teacher who grants such permission.
4. **Personal Media Players.** During non-instructional times, such as study halls or lunch periods, a supervising teacher or staff member, may grant students permission to use personal media players as long as they do not become disruptive, interfere with their learning, or the learning environment of others. Such permission shall not extend to any area out of the immediate supervision of the employee who grants such permission.
5. **School-based exceptions, practices, or programs.** At the middle school level, the Administrator may develop, authorize and/or grant additional exceptional uses of personal electronic devices by students designed to promote responsible use of personal technology. The terms and conditions of these school-based exceptions, practices, or programs must be in writing and must be clearly communicated to all staff, students, and parents before implementation. If such school-based exceptions or practices are found to be more disruptive than

productive, they shall be discontinued as soon as the termination can be reasonably communicated to staff members, students, and parents in writing.

Exceptions two (2) through five (5) shall never apply when a student is in any school bathroom, locker room, or other dressing area.

Code of Conduct

Any use of a personal electronic device by a student under these exceptional circumstances is subject to the provisions and conditions of the Computer and Network Acceptable Use Policy (Policy JIK), the policies prohibiting Discrimination (policies JB and JBA), Harassment (Policy JICK) and Bullying (Policy JICL), and Hazing (Policy JICFA). If there is reasonable suspicion that a student has used a personal electronic device in violation of the law or school policies, school officials, are authorized to examine the device and search its contents relevant to the suspected violation. Such searches will be conducted in accordance with Policy JIH.

Any student who possesses or uses a personal electronic device and/or associated equipment in a manner that violates this policy or any other policy or school rule shall be subject to consequences, including, but not necessarily limited to, disciplinary action, required surrender of the personal electronic device, and/or potentially having his/her right to possess a personal electronic device at school further restricted by the school Administrator or his/her designee. When a school employee confiscates a personal electronic device, the device shall be appropriately secured and returned to the student or to a parent/guardian in accordance with school procedures.

Students and families shall annually be provided with a copy of this policy and any other school rules that govern the possession and use of the personal electronic devices.

IEP and 504 Implications

Nothing within this policy shall be construed to limit a student's ability to use a personal electronic device in a manner that functions as assistive technology necessary for a pupil's education and that is required under an Individualized Education Plan or a Section 504 agreement.