

USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND RECORDING DEVICES (ECRD) (M)

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The Board of Education believes students and/or school staff members should not be subject to having a video or audio recording taken of any student(s) or school staff member(s) for any purpose without the consent of the student, the student's parent, and/or the school staff member. In addition to protecting the privacy rights of students and school staff members, the Board recognizes such recordings can be disruptive to the educational program. In addition, inappropriate recordings of educational material, student assessment instruments, and/or student assessment reviews can be used to compromise the integrity of the district's educational program or lead to academic dishonesty in the event such recordings are stored and/or transmitted to other students. Therefore, the Board of Education adopts this Policy regarding student use of electronic communication and recording devices.

“Electronic communication and recording device (ECRD)” includes any device with the capability to audio or video record or is capable of receiving or transmitting any type of communication between persons. An ECRD includes, but is not limited to, cameras, cellular and wireless telephones, pagers/beepers, laptop computers, electronic readers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), two-way radios, portable fax machines, video broadcasting devices, and any other device that allows a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video, or still images, text, or other information.

Prohibitions On Electronic Communication Audio Or Recording Device

A student is not permitted to have turned on or use an ECRD on school grounds during the school day or when the student is participating in a curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activity. A student's personal ECRD may only be used on school grounds in an emergency situation or before and after the school day or with the permission of a school staff member supervising the student in a curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activity.

The use of audio recording or camera functions of electronic devices is strictly prohibited on school premises at all times. Except under the following circumstances:

Any audio and/or video recording by a student using their personal ECRD with permission of a school staff member while participating in a curricular or school-sponsored activity where other students or staff members are present shall require the



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permission for such recording from any other student and their parent and/or staff members whose voice or image is to be recorded.

This Policy is not intended to prohibit appropriate use of electronic devices for authorized or approved official curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activities such as yearbook photographs, staff member/teacher-directed and approved activities, classroom presentations, athletic events, and drama production filming.

A student authorized or approved to use an ECRD may not use an ECRD to access internet sites or view information or internet-based material that is inappropriate or would be blocked from student access by the school district's acceptable use of computers and networks policy. Nothing in this Policy is intended to prevent a student from using their personal ECRD and recording school-sponsored co-curricular activities as a non-participant when the activity is open to the general public.

For the purposes of this policy, "school grounds" means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and structures that support these buildings, including, but not limited to, administrative buildings, kitchens, maintenance shops, and garages. "School grounds" also includes other facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2, playgrounds, and other recreational places owned by the local municipalities, private entities, or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.

A student who is an active member in good standing of a volunteer fire company, first aid, ambulance or rescue squad may bring or possess a remotely activated paging device on school property only if the student is required to respond to an emergency and the student provides a statement to the Superintendent from the chief executive officer of the volunteer fire company, first aid, ambulance or rescue squad authorizing the possession of the device by the student at all times and that the student is required to respond to an emergency.

Security of Devices

Pupils shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of electronic devices brought to school. The school shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or unauthorized calls made by the electronic device. If devices are loaned to or borrowed and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).

Reporting



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Individuals wishing to report a violation of this policy shall contact a school administrator.

Confiscation

If a pupil violates this policy, his/her electronic device will be confiscated. When an administrator, teacher, security official or any other school employee confiscates an electronic device under this policy, he/she shall take measures to label and secure the device or turn the device over to a school administrator as soon as the employee's duties permit. The electronic device will be released/returned to the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) only after the pupil has complied with any disciplinary consequences that are imposed.

A remotely activated paging device will be confiscated and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Superintendent of Schools shall be immediately notified and the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile justice agency if a student brings or possesses a remotely activated paging device in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-19 and this Policy.

Disciplinary Actions

Violation of this policy will result in discipline up to and including suspension, and notification of law enforcement authorities. A pupil who violates this policy may be prohibited from possession of an electronic device at school or school related events.

1st confiscation: pupil may pick up electronic device at the end of school day from the administrator or security office.

2nd confiscation: parent may pick up electronic device at the end of school day from the administrator or security office.

3rd confiscation: parent may pick up electronic device at the end of the next day from the administrator or security office.

4th confiscation: pupil will lose privilege to have any electronic device at school.

These actions are only for retrieving the device and are not meant to excuse the pupil from any discipline taken by the administrator for violating the pupil code of conduct.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-19

Adopted: 17 October 2013

Revised: 20 January 2016

