

Students

Use of Electronic Devices

The Board adopts this policy in order to maintain/promote an educational environment that is safe and secure for district students and employees. The Board establishes that the acceptable use of electronic devices is to support instruction and as a means of communication under approved circumstances. The Board considers allowing students to bring to school such devices to be a privilege and not a right. The Board reserves the right to revoke this privilege if a student fails to adhere to the following guidelines and/or the Board's acceptable use and student discipline policies.

This policy is applied to all Board of Education sponsored activities including, but not limited to, field trips, transportation, and sporting events.

Administration may confiscate any electronic device and hold such device until investigative and disciplinary actions are concluded.

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, filtered or unfiltered connection to the Internet. Examples of these electronic devices include, but shall not be limited to iPods, MP3 players, handheld game consoles, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), cellular or mobile telephones, tablets, and laptop computers, as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities.

The Board prohibits the use of these and other electronic devices by students in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time.

The Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments by students in District buildings, on District property, on District busses and vehicles, and at school-sponsored activities. The District shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device.

The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of **Drug/Alcohol referencing**, obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to, texting and e-mailing. Such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Therefore, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Disciplinary action may be taken against any student for using a cellular telephone, or other electronic device that is otherwise not banned by this policy, in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, including using the device to cheat, signal others, or otherwise violates student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under this policy, all electronic devices must be kept off and out of sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission, (b) use of the device is provided in a student's IEP, or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff or other individuals. Devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, including but not limited to, posing a threat to academic integrity or violating confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual.

Students

Use of Electronic Devices (continued)

Students found to be using any electronic communications device to in any way send or receive personal messages, data, or information that would constitute to or constitute cheating on tests or examinations shall be subject to discipline. Students violating this rule may be disallowed from carrying any personal communication device following the incident unless a bona fide health emergency exists.

Students found to be using any electronic communications device in violation of these rules shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5131 – Conduct)
(cf. 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct)
(cf. 5131.82 – Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material)
(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)
(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)
(cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment)
(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

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EAST HADDAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Moodus, Connecticut