POLICY

829 Personal Electronic Communication Devices

POLICY NUMBER	VERSION	DOCUMENT STATUS	PRINTED
829	v1.1	DRAFT	10/21/2026

Purpose

The Board adopts this policy in order to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure for district students and employees.

The possession and use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices by students and employees **may be** permitted when in compliance with this policy, other district policies, regulations, rules and procedures, local, state and federal laws, and **when use of the device is** supportive of the district's educational program. Possession and use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices by students and employees that are found to be disruptive to the educational process and/or environment **shall be** prohibited in accordance with this policy, other district policies, regulations, rules and procedures, and local, state and federal laws.

Definitions

Electronic Communication Devices - are communication devices with voice, data, text, and/or navigation capabilities that are able to access the Internet, transmit telephone calls, text messages, email messages, instant messages, video communications (such as iChat and Skype), perform word processing and other computer and online applications (apps), and provide location information. The devices are capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing, and/or displaying information and data.

Examples of Electronic Communication Devices include smartphones (iPhone, Android, Blackberry), cellular phones, mobile phones (with recording and/or camera/video and other capabilities and configurations); traditional telephones; pagers; global positional system (GPS) instruments; computers; portable game units; graphic calculators; MP3, music, and media players or recorders; PDAs; traditional cameras, video cameras, and digital still cameras; tablet and laptop computers; and other similar devices. Electronic Communication Devices may also be referred to as electronic devices in other publications and district policies.

Electronic Communication Devices **may also include** devices that are not capable of transmitting telephone communications (such as iPads, Android tablets, radios), may or may not have Internet access (such as Kindles, Nooks, or other eReaders), are lasers, are capable of recording still and video images, are capable of recording audio, and/or are radar communication devices.

Personal Electronic Communication Devices - are Electronic Communication Devices that are owned by the student or employee.

Authority

The Board permits the use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices by district students and employees during the school day in district buildings, on district property, and while students are attending district-sponsored activities during regular school hours when they are in compliance with this policy, other district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, and so long as such use does not interfere with the students' educational requirements, students' or employees' responsibilities/duties and performance, the rights and education of others, and the operation and services of the district.

Building level administrators, in consultation with the Superintendent and in compliance with this policy, other district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, are authorized to determine the extent of the use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices within their schools, on the school's property, and while students are attending that school's sponsored activities during regular school hours. For example, use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices at the elementary grade level may be different than that at the middle school and/or high school grade levels.

Unless a teacher determines otherwise, Personal Electronic Communication Devices must be turned off upon entering any instructional area and remain off until the student leaves the instructional area. **Instructional areas** include, but are not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, practice fields, field trip locations, auditoriums, band rooms, and chorus rooms.

The district shall have the right to restrict Personal Electronic Communication Devices during school evacuations as necessary, for the safety and security of all individuals.

The district shall not be liable for the theft, loss, damage, misuse, or unauthorized use of any Personal Electronic Communication Device brought to school by a student or employee. Students and employees are personally and solely responsible for the security of Personal Electronic Communication Devices brought to school, school events, or district property. The district will not be responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the personal electronic communications of students or employees; however, it reserves the right to do so if the communications traverse the district network.

If Personal Electronic Communication Devices are loaned to or borrowed and/or misused by nonowners, the owners of the Personal Electronic Communication Devices are jointly responsible with the nonowner for the misuse and/or violation of district policy, regulations, rules, or procedures.

The Board strictly prohibits possession by students on school grounds, at district-sponsored activities, and on buses or other vehicles provided by the district any nondistrict-owned laser pointers, or laser pointer attachments, and any Personal Electronic Communication Devices that are hazardous or harmful to students, employees, and the district. These include, but are not limited to, devices that control/interfere with the operation of the buildings' systems, facilities and infrastructure, or network. No exception or permission may be authorized by the principal or designee, or anyone, for students to possess or use such devices.

Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist: [1]

1. **The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district furnished transportation.**

2. **The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.** [2] [3]

3. **Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.**

4. **The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school.**

5. **The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.**

6. **There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.**

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent **shall be responsible for** creating and enforcing regulations, rules, procedures, and forms to accompany this policy.

Students and employees must comply with this policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules and procedures. Students must comply with the guidelines set by the classroom teacher and/or district and building officials for the use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices. Students and employees will be held responsible for their conduct in the use of the devices.

Guidelines

Violations of this policy **shall** be reported to a school district administrator.

Personal Electronic Communication Devices **used or possessed in violation of** this policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures **may** be confiscated.

If school officials have reasonable suspicion that this policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules, procedures, and laws are violated by the student's use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices and that the use of these devices materially and substantially disrupts the **educational environment**, the devices may be lawfully searched in accordance with **applicable** law **and Board policy**. [4] [5]

Students and employees **shall** have no expectation of privacy when using Personal Electronic Communication Devices on the district's wireless network or other service(s).

Employees may not use Personal Electronic Communication Devices in such a way that would detract from the performance of their normal work duties.

Staff members may not store any education records related to students, as defined in Board Policy 216 Student Records, on their Personally Owned Electronic Devices. [6]

Disciplinary consequences shall be in accordance with **relevant** district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures. Students may be prohibited from bringing their Personal Electronic Devices to school as a result of violations of this policy.[7][8][9][10]

Exceptions

The school district administrator may grant approval for possession and use of an electronic device by a student for the following reasons:

1. **Health, safety or emergency reasons.**
2. **An individualized education program (IEP).** [11]
3. **Classroom or instructional-related activities.**
4. **Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.**

The school district administrator may grant approval for possession and use of a telephone paging device/beeper by a student for the following reasons:[12]

1. **Student is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.**

2. **Student has a need due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.**

3. **Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.**

Legal Footnotes

[1] **Pol. 218 — Student Discipline**
POLICY REFERENCE

[2] **Pol. 122 — Extracurricular, Cocurricular Activities, Athletics and Student Organizations**
POLICY REFERENCE

[3] **Pol. 123 — Interscholastic Athletics**
POLICY REFERENCE

[4] **Pol. 226 — Searches**
POLICY REFERENCE

[5] **Pol. 805.1 — Relations With Law Enforcement Agencies**
POLICY REFERENCE

[6] **Pol. 216 — Student Records**
POLICY REFERENCE

[11] **Pol. 113 — Special Education**
POLICY REFERENCE

[12] **24 P.S. 1317.1**
LEGAL REFERENCE