

STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that there are personal electronic devices that have educational applications such as calculators, voice recorders, digital cameras and music listening devices. In some instances, a “smart phone” or “smart watch” may include applications that permit these functions. These devices shall be allowed to be used in classrooms, or other school locations only when they are included as part of a lesson under the direction of a teacher, or permission is given by an administrator.

The Board acknowledges that cellular phones and smart watches can be a positive means to facilitate communication; however, the display and/or use of such a device can cause disruption to the educational process.

Therefore, to prevent such disruption, the display and/or use by students of cellular phones, including smart phones and smart watches may not be used in the student cafeteria during lunch periods, recess or during free time by students in grades K-8. High school students (grades 9-12) may use personal electronic devices during lunch periods in the cafeteria, in study halls with teacher permission, and during senior privilege time. When used, proper etiquette should be observed so as not to disturb others.

Building administration will investigate the loss, theft or damage of cellular phones, smart watches or other electronic devices; however, the District will not be liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of any personal technology brought to school.

The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, and/or confiscate personal technology when administration has reasonable suspicion¹ to believe that a violation of school policy or criminal law has occurred. The Board expressly prohibits the use of personal technology in locker rooms, restrooms, and any other areas where a person would reasonably expect some degree of personal privacy. Unauthorized taking of photos, video, or audio recordings is prohibited.

Consequences for misuse of any of these electronic devices will follow guidelines set forth in the Code of Conduct. Students may not utilize any technology to harass, threaten, bully, demean, humiliate, intimidate, embarrass, or annoy their classmates or others in the community. This behavior is a violation of the Code of Conduct, subject to disciplinary action and will be reported to the state as part of the Dignity for All Students Act and law enforcement officials, as appropriate.

Cellular Telephones, Smart Watches and Testing

In order to ensure the integrity of testing, and in accordance with State guidelines, students are not allowed to bring cellular phones, smart watches and other electronic devices into the classrooms or other exam locations during local, and/or state assessments, including classroom quizzes and tests. Teachers,

¹ For purposes of this policy, *Reasonable Suspicion*, is defined as a particularized and objective basis, supported by specific and articulable facts, for suspecting a person of prohibited conduct and/or criminal activity. (Black’s Law Dictionary: 11th ed. 2019).

test proctors, test monitors and school officials have the right to collect cellular phones and smart watches prior to the start of a test and to hold them while the test is being administered, including during break periods. Admission to a state test shall be denied to any student who refuses to relinquish a prohibited device.

Students with individualized education plans (IEPs), 504 Plans, or documentation from a medical practitioner that specifically requires the use of an electronic device may do so as specified.

Cross-ref: 5300 Code of Conduct

Dignity for All Students Act

Ref: Price v New York City Board of Education, 16 Misc.3d 543 (2007)

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