

Revised draft copy of the Mobile Device Policy

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Mobile Devices
Code	237.1
Status	Active
Adopted	January 9, 2022;
Revised:	

Purpose

The Board recognizes that the use of mobile devices creates unnecessary interruptions to the learning process and affects student well-being, academic performance, and school safety. Accordingly, the Board adopts this policy to support an educational environment that is orderly, safe and secure for District students and employees.

Authority

Section 1314-A of the Pennsylvania School Code requires the District to adopt a policy related to student possession and use of mobile devices during the school day while on school property. Pursuant to this authority, the District will permit students to bring mobile devices to school, but they must be powered off or placed into silent mode and secured in their lockers entirety of the school day. Students are permitted to use mobile devices during extracurricular activities outside of the school day.

Definitions

"Mobile device" shall mean a personal mobile telephone or other portable electronic device capable of connecting to the Internet and enabling the user to access content on the Internet, that is not owned by a school entity or issued by a school entity to a student. A mobile device shall include a device with which a user could engage in a call; write, send or receive a message; send or receive data or an image; record, play or edit audio or video data; take photographs; play a game; or watch a video. The term includes, but is not limited to, cellular phones, smartwatches, ear buds or wireless headphones by any brand name, laptop computers or tablets, e-readers, digital cameras, Meta glasses. The term does not include a portable device that meets the definition of a device under 21 U.S.C. § 321 (relating to definitions generally).

"Electronic devices" shall mean all devices that can take photographs; record, play or edit audio or video data; store, transmit or receive calls, messages, text, data or images; operate online applications; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.

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"School day" shall mean the entirety of every instructional day during all instructional and non-instructional time, including homeroom periods, lunch, recess and the time moving between classes.

Policy

The Board prohibits use of mobile devices by students during the school day.

Students shall secure their mobile device(s) in their assigned lockers with a lock during the school day. Students are responsible for the security of their own devices. It is recommended that each student provide their own lock. Locks will be made available upon request.

In the event lockers are not available, designated employees of the District shall take possession of a student's mobile device. In such circumstances, neither the District nor school employee shall be liable for any damaged or lost mobile device if the school employee acted in good faith to secure the mobile device in accordance with the school entity's policy.

Students are permitted to use mobile devices during extracurricular activities outside of the school day, including while traveling on District buses and vehicles.

The Board prohibits use of electronic devices, including mobile devices, in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time.

Enforcement and Oversight

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the mobile device or electronic device.

The building principals or designee shall have the authority to investigate potential violations of this policy and assign discipline to students who violate the rules and regulations, subject to Board policies, administrative regulations, the Code of Student Conduct, and school rules, and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.

Teaching staff and other district employees responsible for students shall have the authority to take reasonable actions necessary to enforce the rules and regulations governing this policy, in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulations, the Code of Student Conduct, and school rules.

Emergency Notifications

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The Superintendent or designee shall develop methods for a student, parent or legal guardian to sign up for emergency notifications from the District.

Contacting Children During the School Day

Parents/guardians will be able to contact their child through a dedicated telephone line at each District school which will be manned during the school day.

Mandatory Exceptions

Exceptions to this Policy shall be made to allow limited use of a mobile device during the school day by a student who:

1. Requires a mobile device due to the medical condition, documented by a medical provider, of the student or an immediate family member of the student.
2. Has an individualized education program or 504 service agreement in which a mobile device is part of the accommodations or services provided to the student.
3. Is an English learner and uses a mobile device for translation or other English as a second language purposes.
4. Has permission from a teacher to use a mobile device for educational purposes during instructional time, provided that:
 - a. a school-issued device is insufficient or unavailable for the instructional purposes needed by the teacher;
 - b. the school's principal determines that the use of the mobile device is appropriate for instructional purposes; and
 - c. the approval is for a limited circumstance and duration and does not permit the use of a mobile device as a regular part of instruction.

Discretionary Exceptions

A school principal may approve an additional exceptions if: the principal submits a notification for the exception to the Superintendent or a designee and the notification includes the following: (i) the purpose of the exception. (ii) the date, time and duration of the exception. (iii) a description of to whom the exception shall apply. Such exceptions may not exceed one (1) school day. (3) The notification shall be submitted no later than five (5) days after the school day on which the exception occurred.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations regarding the implementation of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall publish and distribute to all staff, students, and parents/guardians the rules and regulations governing the use of mobile devices. These shall

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be available in the student handbook, on the District website, and publicized through the District social media channels.

At the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment, the Superintendent or designee shall provide written notification to parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in the District of the methods for a student, parent or legal guardian to sign up for emergency notifications.

At the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment, the Superintendent or designee shall provide written notification to parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in the District of the methods to contact their child during the school day. Methods may include, but not be limited to, the school building phone number or an electronic mail address. The District shall ensure that any method of contact provided to parents and legal guardians is staffed during the school day.