



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Electronic Devices - REVIEWED BY STOCK AND LEADER WITH REVISIONS NOTED
Code	237
Status	First Reading
Adopted	December 8, 2004
Last Revised	April 16, 2012
Last Reviewed	August 22, 2022

Purpose

Spring Grove Area School District provides students and staff access to technology tools and Internet resources as part of the district's core educational mission and goals. Technology permeates virtually all district academic activities, operations, communications and research. It is the intent of the district to hold high expectations for student behavior, and academic integrity while promoting responsible and ethical use of technology and network resources.

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for responsible use of existing and emerging technologies and electronic devices that students may possess.

Definition

~~**Electronic Devices — a term as used in this policy, which includes: 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, but will not be limited to: laptops, netbooks, mobile cellular phones, smart phones, personal digital assistants, personal media devices (iPods, iPads, e-Readers, tablet computers, and similar devices) and any other internet-enabled communication devices or other new technologies developed that are capable of connecting to the district's network or other independent mobile network.**~~

Electronic Devices shall include 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.

Authority

The district holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity, and the responsible use of technology devices such as cellular phones, digital picture/video cameras and/or phones and other electronic devices capable of capturing and/or transmitting data or images. Students who possess and/or use such devices during the school day; in/on district buildings, district property, district vehicles or contracted vehicles; during transport to/from school; while attending school sponsored activities during the school day; and/or during any/all school-sponsored activities generally, will demonstrate the

greatest respect for the educational environment and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community.^[1]

The district will not be liable for the loss, damage, theft, or misuse of any personal electronic device brought to school by a student in any of the circumstances or in any of the environments mentioned in the above paragraph. The district will bear no responsibility or provide technical support, troubleshooting, or repair of electronic devices owned by anyone other than the district. Costs for the use of data and applications on the aforementioned electronic devices will be the responsibility of the student.

Electronic Images and Photographs

The district prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing.

Because such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Administrators are to confiscate devices implicated in this electronic data transfer and immediately contact law enforcement when possession or distribution of such images is discovered or reasonably suspected.

Such prohibited activity will also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property if:

1. The conduct involves, threatens or makes more likely violence, use of force or other serious harm directed at students, staff or the school environment;

2. The conduct materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with the school environment or the educational process, such as school activities, school work, discipline, safety and order on school property or at school functions;

3. The conduct interferes with or threatens to interfere with the rights of students or school staff or the safe and orderly operation of the schools and their programs;

4. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property; or

5. The proximity, timing or motive for the conduct in question or other factors pertaining to the conduct otherwise establish a direct connection to attendance at school, to the school community, or to a school-sponsored activity. This would include, for example, but not be limited to, conduct that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if it occurred in school that is committed in furtherance of a plan made or agreed to in school, or acts of vandalism.

- ~~1. There is a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.~~
- ~~2. The student is a member of an interscholastic activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.~~
- ~~3. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, such as an agreement made on school property to complete a transaction outside of school that would violate the Code of Student Conduct.~~

Recording

Audio recording will be consistent with state/federal laws. The unauthorized student recording of oral communications of any individual(s) possessing an expectation that such communications will not be recorded is prohibited and may be punishable under federal and state laws.^[8]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee will annually notify students, parents/guardians and employees about the Board's electronic device policy.

The Superintendent or designee will develop administrative regulations and a Student Code of Conduct to implement this policy.

Guidelines

Violations of this policy by a student will result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the electronic device.[3][4]

This policy is specifically written for student access of electronic devices. Administration or professional staff must give permission for use of electronic devices by specifically authorizing the use of electronic devices for the purposes of participating in educational or instructional activities. Administration is authorized to determine other, non-instructional locations for use of electronic devices.[1][5][8][9]

The Board permits the use of electronic devices by students as designated by the respective classroom instructor during instructional time. The Board further permits electronic devices for non-verbal, non-disruptive use during non-instructional times in locations designated in the building handbook and this policy. All other uses of electronic devices are prohibited.

Laser Pointers

The Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments by students on school property, on buses and other vehicles provided by the district, and at school-sponsored activities.[5]

Telephone Pagers/Beepers

~~With prior administrative approval, students may be in possession of a telephone paging device/beeper in the following cases:[5]~~

- ~~1. A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.~~
- ~~2. A student who has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.~~
- ~~3. Other reasons determined to be appropriate and approved by the building principal.~~

Filtered Internet Use

The district will provide filtered, authenticated, wireless access to the Internet for student use. The district forbids student access to the Internet through an unfiltered, unapproved wired, wireless, or cellular connection on electronic devices in any of the circumstances and in any of the environments listed in **Section 3 (the Authority section,)** above. For example, connection to the Internet while present on school property, on school transportation, or at a school-related activity, via anything other than the district-provided network, is in violation of this policy and the responsible use policy.[6]

Privacy

Students will not photograph, videotape, or record other individuals at school, on school district property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored activities without their knowledge and consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena such as sporting events or public performances.

Use of cellular phones or other electronic devices is prohibited in the nurses' office, guidance office, school office, restrooms, and locker rooms, unless school personnel in charge specifically permit use of the cell phone or electronic devices, in which case, the device may be used ONLY to the extent and in the manner that permission was expressly granted.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior approval of the building principal or designee, or when use is required for the provision of a free appropriate public education for a student identified under Section 504 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and present in a student's Individualized Education Program or Section 504 plan.[7]

Assuring Academic Integrity

Students will not use cellular phones or other electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy. Use of electronic devices is prohibited during testing, except where specifically authorized by the teacher or staff member and where the use of such device is required for the test.

Discipline

Student use of electronic devices will not violate any other District policies, including those regarding student privacy, copyright, cheating, plagiarism, Student Code of Conduct, Responsible Use Policy, or harassment. Violations of this policy by a student ~~may will~~ result in disciplinary action (including the range of penalties provided for in the discipline code, such as, loss of privileges, confiscation, and referral for expulsion) in accordance with district policy and the student handbook. Use of electronic devices for an unlawful purpose will subject a student to any and all disciplinary measures provided by the discipline code, district policy, or state/federal law. If a violation occurs, involving more than one (1) district policy, consequences for each policy ~~may will~~ apply.[3][4][6][10][11]

Use of electronic devices pursuant to this policy is a privilege, not a right, unless otherwise required by legal exception stated above. Abuse of the limited use provision will result in discontinuation of electronic device privileges as determined by the administration.

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 510
3. Pol. 218
4. Pol. 233
5. 24 P.S. 1317.1
6. Pol. 815
7. Pol. 113
8. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 5703
9. 18 U.S.C. 2510 et seq
10. Pol. 248
11. Pol. 814
- Pol. 000
- Pol. 122
- Pol. 123
- Pol. 226