

CARLISLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ADOPTED: July 20, 2006

 REVISED: February 16, 2012
 August 21, 2014
 December 8, 2022

237. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Purpose

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

Definition

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, 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.

Silent Use - is the use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices that make no sound, are inaudible, and are speechless. Examples of Silent Use include texting, electronic messaging, and the use of headphones with the volume not being audible to others. No device ringing, ringtones, or sound effects are permitted at any time.

Authority

The Board permits Silent Use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, by district students 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, responsibilities/duties and performance, the rights and education of others, and the operation and services of the district. [1]

Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, are to be turned off at the request of staff/authority figure while in an instructional area. Instructional areas include, but are not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, practice fields, field trip locations, auditoriums, band rooms, and chorus rooms.

The Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments and telephone paging devices/beepers by students in district buildings; on district property; on district buses and vehicles; and at school-sponsored activities. [2]

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device.

Electronic Images And Photographs

The Board 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 e-mailing.

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.

Off-Campus Activities

Such prohibited activity shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property if and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist: [3]

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. [4][5]
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 Electronic Devices policy shall be referenced in student handbooks and posted on the District website.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy.

Guidelines

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the electronic device. [3][6][7]

Exceptions

The building 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). [8]
3. Classroom or instructional-related activities.
4. Participating in a school sponsored field trip or extra/co-curricular activity.
5. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal or designee.

The building administrator may grant approval for possession and use of a telephone paging device/beeper by a student for the following reasons: [2]

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 the student or an immediate family member.
3. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

Legal References:

1. 24 P.S. 510
2. Pol. 103.1
3. Pol. 113
4. Pol. 218
5. Pol. 815
6. Pol. 235
7. Pol. 226
8. Pol. 233