

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS
 TITLE: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES
 ADOPTED: January 28, 2008
 REVISED: October 24, 2011

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definitions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">237. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES</p> <p>The Board adopts this policy to establish reasonable rules and regulations to authorize students to possess personal electronic devices in school while still ensuring the presence of these devices do not disrupt the educational environment or are used to distract, harass or threaten other students or staff.</p> <p>The following definitions shall apply for purposes of this policy:</p> <p>Personal Electronic Device or PED - an electronic device that emits an audible or visual signal, displays a text message, visual image or otherwise summons or alerts the user of the device in some manner. This definition of this term includes, but is not limited to, CD/DVD/audio cassette tape players, cellular telephones, digital audio players (iPods or MP3 players), digital cameras, digital video recorders, electronic e-mailing devices, laptop computers, tablet computers (iPads and similar devices), pagers, portable game players, radios, smart phones, video cameras or any device that provides a wireless connection to the Internet.</p> <p>Use shall mean any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carrying or possessing a PED that is either visible (regardless if it is “on” or “off”) or can be heard, or is placed in a location with the expectation and desire that it be visible or audible. 2. A PED that emits an audible signal, vibrates, is in “sleep mode,” displays a message or otherwise summons interacts or in any way conveys a message to the device user or any other person at the users direction. <p>A PED that is “turned off” - such that is not activated and cannot self-activate (which in some devices may require the removal of the power source) and is stored out-of-sight in a container such as a back pack, bookbag, locker, pocket, purse, vehicle, etc. shall not be deemed “in use.”</p>
---	---

<p>3. Authority</p>	<p>The Board restricts use of PEDs by students during the school day in district buildings, on district property, and while students are attending school-sponsored activities during the school day.</p> <p>Students are solely responsible for safe storage of the PEDs that they choose to bring to school. The school district shall not be liable or responsible for the loss or damage to any PED that a student brings to school, interscholastic athletic events, extracurricular activities or school-sponsored trips or for any data stored on such a PED.</p> <p>The school district bears no liability for any financial loss directly or indirectly stemming from the confiscation of a PED as a result of a policy violation.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative guidelines to implement the district’s electronic devices policy. The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about this policy and any administrative guidelines by publishing such policy and guidelines in the student handbook, newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>Personal Electronic Devices may be used by students at appropriate times, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, during the school day, on school grounds, on school buses or other vehicles provided by the district. Administrative guidelines shall be developed by the Superintendent or designee to establish the types of devices that may be used by students and the appropriate use of such devices.</p> <p><u>Prohibited Use Of PEDs In School</u></p> <p><i>Electronic Images and Photographs –</i></p>
<p>SC 510</p>	<p>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 emailing. Students who have received such images, and who are not otherwise involved in the taking or distribution of such images, may report such activity to school officials without violating this policy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Students shall not use PEDs in locker rooms, lavatories or the nurses’ office for any reason.</p>

<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 248, 248.1, 249</p>	<p>Students shall not engage in the unauthorized audio or video recording of another person during the school day.</p> <p>Students shall not use PEDs to bully, harass or threaten another person in violation of school district policies and rules or federal or state laws.</p>
<p>Pol. 122, 123</p>	<p>Prohibited Use Guidelines shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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.
<p>Pol. 218</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The conduct has a direct relationship 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.
	<p><u>Permissible Use Of PEDs In School</u></p> <p>Students may use personal electronic devices in the classroom during the school day for instructional purposes only as authorized by the supervising teacher in each classroom. Use of PEDs for verbal, visual and/or text messaging, without specific authorization of the supervising teacher, shall not be considered an appropriate instructional purpose.</p> <p>A student using the wireless Internet capabilities on a permitted PED shall abide by the district's computer/Internet acceptable use policy. A failure to do so is a violation of this policy as well as the district's acceptable use policy, and the student will be subject to the consequences for the prohibited use of PEDs, in addition to the consequences set forth in the district's computer/Internet acceptable use policy.</p>
<p>SC 1317.1</p>	<p>Students who serve as members of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad may use personal electronic devices during the school day for the exclusive purpose of being called by their company or squad in order to respond to an emergency, if the students have received the prior permission of their building principal.</p> <p>A student who has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan may use a PED during the school day, if the authorized plan expressly states that the student may use the device for instructional purposes and the device is used in a manner consistent with stated purposes in the plan.</p>

Coaches of interscholastic athletic teams and sponsors of extracurricular activities (School Representatives) shall have discretion to regulate and limit student use of PED's while participating in interscholastic athletics, extracurricular activities and school-sponsored trips where the School Representatives reasonably believe such use will interfere with the particular program.

Enforcement Of Policy

Building administrators are authorized and required to enforce this policy and any administrative regulations under this policy.

Penalties For Violations

Building principals, teachers and security personnel are authorized to confiscate a student's PED when used in violation of this policy. All confiscated PEDs shall be delivered to the building principal's office as soon as practical for return to student at the end of the school day or the student's parent/guardian for a second of subsequent offense.

School administrators may impose additional disciplinary sanctions against students for policy violations, including suspensions from school or recommendations for expulsion from school as warranted by the facts and circumstances in a particular case.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1317.1

Board Policy – 113, 218, 233, 815