Policy

**POSSESSION/USE OF ELECTRONIC**

**COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN SCHOOL**

*Code* **JICJ** *Issued* **DRAFT/19**

The board believes electronic communication devices may be useful tools for students in the educational environment and can play a vital communication role during emergency situations. However, use of electronic communication devices in school situations must be regulated to ensure that the use of such devices does not disrupt or interfere with the educational process or school operations.

For purposes of this policy, *electronic communication devices* are defined as any telecommunications device (including, but not limited to, wearable technology, such as smart watches that have the capability to interact with wireless technology; cell phones; laptops; tablets; mp3 players; and other current and future similarly utilized devices) that emits an audible signal; vibrates; displays a message; records; live streams; or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor.

The district is not responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of electronic communication devices brought onto school or district property or in a student’s possession while he/she is attending district or school-sponsored activities or events.

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Misuse of any electronic communication device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment or does not respect the rights of others is expressly forbidden.

Electronic devices may not be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or other locations where the presence of such devices poses an unreasonable risk to the safety, welfare, or privacy of others as determined by the building principal. If the building principal believes a student’s possession or use of an electronic communication device may involve a violation of the law, the principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement.

Students may not use electronic devices to:

* Engage in, promote, or facilitate any conduct that otherwise violates board policy, school rules, and/or the Code of Conduct
* Disrupt the educational environment or school-sponsored extracurricular activities or events
* Impair or interfere with the district or school operations
* Photograph or record the activities of other students, staff members, volunteers, visitors, or any other individual on district property without the express permission of a district staff member

A teacher may grant permission for the use of electronic communication devices to assist with instruction in his/her classroom. The principal or his/her designee may also grant a student permission to use such a device at his/her discretion.

Use of an electronic communication device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student’s individualized education program (IEP); is utilized in conjunction with membership in a voluntary firefighting or emergency medical service organization; or is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

In exchange for the privilege of bringing electronic communication devices into the educational environment, each student and his/her parent/legal guardian agrees to voluntarily forfeit the electronic communication device (*option: for the reminder of the day; until it is picked up by a parent/legal guardian, etc.*) if the student is found to be in violation of this policy. The student is also subject to discipline in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Cf. JICDA

Adopted ^

Legal References:

A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-63-280 - Requires board to adopt a policy on student use of electronic devices.