

Wireless Communication Devices Policy

Southwest Area Technology Team Collaborative Draft Policy Template

1. Purpose

Use of wireless communication devices and cellular phones in particular have become increasingly prevalent with high school and even elementary school students. These devices offer tremendous convenience and access to communication with parents and other students. With such convenience and ease comes the great potential for misuse and abuse of this technology.

2. Policy

While in some instances the possession and use of wireless communication devices or other devices or objects by a student at a school may be appropriate, often the possession and use of such devices or objects by students at school can have the effect of distracting, disrupting, and intimidating others in the school setting and leading to opportunities for academic dishonesty and other disruptions of the educational process. The purpose of this policy is to vest with school administrators the authority to enforce reasonable rules relating to student use of such objects or devices in the public schools.

3. Procedure

3.1. Definitions:

3.1.1. **Acceptable Use:** Students are not permitted to use any type of wireless communication device during class time, passing periods or breaks without the permission of the teacher or school administration. The wireless communication device must remain turned off and out of sight during the instructional school day. Some instructors may allow students to use these devices in class, but the use must not disrupt the learning environment and will conform to the policies set forth.

3.1.2. **Prohibited Use:** Any use that violates federal or State laws and/or District policy.

3.1.3. **Electronic wireless communication device:** This includes laptop and hand-held computers, telephones, "smart phones", camera telephones, two-way radios or video broadcasting devices, pagers, and any other device that allows a person to record and/or transmit on either a

real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text, or other information.

3.2. Prohibited Uses: Students are not to use material, images or text message to invade personal privacy or harass another person, or disrupt the instructional day, or engage in dishonest acts. The following are inappropriate uses of electronic wireless communication devices:

3.2.1. Harassment, threats, intimidation, cyberbullying/cyberthreats of other students, teachers, staff or school administration via cellular phone calls, SMS text messaging or by the use of MMS picture messaging.

3.2.2 Passing or transmitting otherwise secure information, i.e. electronic forgery.

3.2.3 Invasion of personal rights in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include but are not limited to locker rooms, shower rooms, restrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes. In addition, some classroom situations where.

3.2.4 Use in a special classroom setting such as remediation or special education where student participation here is neither public knowledge nor voluntary.

3.2.5 Cheating on tests/exams by either transmitting or receiving test/exam information or images before, during, or after the administration of the test/exam.

3.2.6 Violation of any other district policy or other forms of illegal behavior during the instructional and non- instructional day.

3.3. Privileges and Discipline:

3.3.1 Students are allowed to use their wireless communication devices before school, during their designated lunchtime, during passing time, and after school in accordance with the above policies.

3.3.2 Students may have wireless devices in their possession or in their lockers at other times during the instructional day as long as the device is powered down and the device is out of sight in a pocket, bag or backpack.

3.3.3 If a student receives permission by a teacher or school administration to use a wireless communication device, it shall not disrupt the educational program.

3.3.4 If disruption occurs, the school staff shall direct the student to turn off the device and/or confiscate it.

3.3.5 If a school staff member finds it necessary to confiscate a device, parents will be notified promptly and the device will be returned in accordance with school rules after the administrator or designee has consulted with the student's parent/guardian.

3.3.6 The school is not responsible for lost or stolen electronic wireless communication devices. Students are to make arrangements with their parent(s) or guardian(s) to contact the school office when attempting to reach them during the school day.

3.3.7 Students who act in violation of this policy may, at the discretion of the school teachers &/or administrators, be subject to the District's progressive discipline as follows:

1. Initial violation – wireless communication device will be confiscated by school staff and secured in a safe location. The device will be returned to student at the conclusion of the staff work day;
2. Second violation – wireless communication device will be confiscated and secured in a safe location. The device will not be returned to the student unless and until the student's parent or guardian meets with school administrative staff for the purpose of clarifying this policy;
3. Third violation – the wireless communication device will be confiscated and secured in a safe location. The device will not be returned to the student unless and until the student's parent or guardian provides written assurance that the student will no longer be allowed to possess the device during the instructional day.
4. Fourth violation – the wireless communication device will be confiscated and secured in a safe location. The student will be subject to suspension;
5. Fifth violation – the wireless communication device will be confiscated and secured in a safe location. The student will be subjected to loss of school privileges;
6. Any further violations will subject the student to further disciplinary action up to and including student suspension &/or loss of extracurricular opportunities.