

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 200 Pupils

TITLE: Electronic Devices

ADOPTED: August 21, 2014

REVISED: October 19, 2017

237. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Purpose

The School Reform Commission (SRC) adopts this policy to contribute toward the maintenance of an educational environment that is safe and secure for district students and employees. Further, the SRC recognizes that certain electronic devices can be used for educational purposes.

Definition

Electronic devices - include all devices that can take photographs; record, play or edit audio or video data; store, transmit or receive calls, messages, data or images; perform online applications; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.

Authority

The SRC requires this policy to be posted on the district's publicly accessible website.[1]

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device. The district shall provide no technical support, troubleshooting, or repair for personal electronic devices.

Approved Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices may be used in the classroom, in education-related activities and in approved locations under the supervision of professional staff for educational purposes only. All use shall be in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct, the Acceptable Use Policy or as designated in an individualized education program (IEP).[2][3][4][5]

The district shall provide filtered Internet access for educational purposes for student use in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Acceptable Use Policy. The district is not capable of filtering content for students using non-district network access, such as cellular smart phone networks. Parent/Guardians assume all responsibility for unfiltered access to the Internet via non-district Internet connections.[5]

Use of electronic devices for photography and/or recording may only occur when authorized by the building principal, district administration, or designated professional staff members for the purposes of participation in educational activities.

The building administrator may grant approval for possession and use of a telephone paging device/beeper by a student for the following reasons:[6]

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

Unauthorized Use of Electronic Devices

The SRC prohibits use of all electronic devices by students in locker rooms, bathrooms and other changing areas.

The SRC 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.

Audio and videotaping shall be consistent with state and federal laws. Recording anyone without their knowledge and permission is prohibited and may be punishable under federal, state and local laws.

Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist:[4]

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.[7][8]
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 Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and employees about this policy and its availability on the district's website.[\[1\]](#)__

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures 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.[\[4\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

Violations of this policy may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law and the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Legal References:

1. [24 P.S. 510.2](#)

2. [24 P.S. 510](#)

3. Pol. 113 - Special Education

4. Pol. 218 - Student Conduct and Discipline

5. Pol. 815 - Acceptable Use of Internet, Technology and Network Resources

6. [24 P.S. 1317.1](#)

7. Pol. 122 - Extracurricular Activities

8. Pol. 123 - Interscholastic Athletics

9. Pol. 226 - Searches

10. Pol. 233 - Suspension and Expulsion

Related Information:

[Philadelphia Home Rule Charter - 12-300](#)