

Administrative Regulation

Mobile Communication Devices

The Board of Education recognizes that the use of mobile communication devices may be beneficial to student learning and well-being but could also prove disruptive of the instructional program in some circumstances.

Students may use mobile communication devices on campus during non-instructional time only if the device is utilized in accordance with the law and any rules that individual school sites may impose.

A. Definition

A mobile communication device is any device that sends, receives or records images, texts, videos, or voice communication. Such devices may include but are not limited to cell phones, smart watches or any other technology designed for similar purposes.

B. Allowable Use

Mobile communication devices shall be turned off during instructional time unless directed by the teacher to be turned on for instructional use. However, a student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under the following circumstances:

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger
2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator
3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being
4. When the possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person.

When a school official reasonably suspects that a search of a student's mobile communication device will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted.

When a student uses a mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner, the student may be disciplined and a district employee may confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate.

A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform students that the district will not be responsible for a student's mobile communication device which is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.

Note: Student possession of laser pointers is prohibited on school property unless such possession is for a valid instructional or school-related purpose. (Penal Code Sec. 417.27)

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Ref: EC Sections 35161, 48901.5, 48901.7 PC Section 417.27
Approved: December 3, 2002
Revised: August 17, 2004
Revised: September 3, 2019
Revised: September 25, 2023