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STUDENTS

3265

Student Owned Electronic Devices

The Board adopts this policy to place controls on the use of student-owned electronic devices at school. There has been a rising concern that spending too much time on social media or using cell phones may be detrimental to students' physical and mental health. The Board's priority is to protect the learning environment as well as the physical and mental health of students.

By placing limits on the permissible use of such electronic devices, the Board intends to:

1. Adopt policy in alignment with State Department of Education guidance on cell phones;
2. Maintain a collaborative learning environment;
3. Increase focused learning time;
4. Increase capacity to focus on a given task;
5. Encourage more interpersonal interaction;
6. Promote student safety online and in a digital environment;
7. Promote responsible technology use;
8. Prevent cyberbullying; and
9. Mitigate the privacy concerns posed by personal electronic devices.

By placing limits on the permissible use of such electronic devices, the Board encourages

1. Students to engage in conversation and spend time with their peers during lunch and during activities.
2. Teachers to follow the same practices as the students to be examples of proper phone and device use.

DEFINITION

This policy shall apply to any electronic device not issued by the Charter School that is capable of accessing the internet or sending an electronic message to another device, such as smart phones, other cell phones, tablets, laptops, e-readers, and smart watches.

RESTRICTIONS ON TIME AND LOCATION OF USE

Students are prohibited from using student-owned electronic devices in the following times and places:

- During class time;
- In bathrooms, locker rooms, or changing rooms; and
- In detention, in school suspension, or in the office for any disciplinary issue.

Students are prohibited from bringing electronic game systems to school.

Students are allowed to use cellphones

- During passing periods;
- During lunch;
- At school activities outside of school hours;

Teachers are prohibited from using cell phones in the following times and places:

- During the school day when they are in class or supervising students.

Teachers may access personal accounts and make personal communications during their preparation time or before and after school. In the event of an emergency or urgent family matter a teacher may get help supervising their class so that they can make the necessary communications.

SPECIALS CONSIDERATIONS

- During an evacuation or lockdown, students will retrieve their devices, unless it is unsafe to do so.
- Students may use a personal electronic device in the case of an emergency to contact help. In this policy, an emergency is an event that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of any person or a risk of damage to property. If a student needs to use a personal electronic device in such an emergency, they should ensure they are in as safe a location as is feasible.

Any use of an electronic device required by a student's 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) shall be permitted regardless of whether it would otherwise violate this policy.

If a student's parent/guardian or their designee needs to contact a student in the case of an emergency at a time when student cell phone use is not permitted, the parent/guardian or designee should call the school office.

STORAGE PROCEDURES

Acceptable Options for what students can do with their phones while in class:

1. In their locker
2. In a designated device pouch in the classroom

Shared Classroom Procedure for Student Devices

1. In each classroom, there will be a pouch for personal devices for the students to deposit them at the beginning of class.
2. The devices will remain there until the end of the class, and the teacher will instruct students to get them.
3. The devices should remain in the pouch until the end of the period.
4. Students will carry their devices from class to class
5. Students will be allowed to use the devices outside of class time.

USE OF DEVICES

Any use of personal electronic devices at school or at school events shall comply with Procedure 3270P Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks. Student-owned electronic devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, including, but not limited to, posing a threat to academic integrity or violating confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual.

Access to the devices is a privilege and not a right. Each student will be required to follow the Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Policy and the Internet Access Conduct Agreement.

Students may only access the internet through the Charter School's filtered connection, regardless of whether they are using their personal device or a School-issued device. School staff will not provide software or technical assistance for student-owned devices.

Because power cords stretched out in classrooms become a safety issue both for the students and devices, charging the device with such a cord in any classroom, hallway, or any other location that may be a safety concern may be prohibited.

The use of cameras in any type of electronic device is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, and classrooms unless a certified Charter School employee authorizes the student to do otherwise. Where students are allowed to use electronic devices, they are required to obtain permission before taking a photograph or video of any individual. Students must also obtain permission from any individual appearing in a photograph or video prior to posting on any social networking site or other internet site.

Students found to be using any electronic communications device to in any way send or receive personal messages, data, or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on any student assessment, project, or assignment shall be subject to discipline.

Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school and classroom teacher concerning appropriate use of personal electronic devices.

The Executive Director may set further procedures and rules to ensure this policy is followed. The School may also make use of technology-based approaches, such as monitoring or blocking internet access.

Students are responsible for safeguarding devices they bring to school. The School shall not be responsible for loss, theft, damages, or destruction of student owned devices brought onto school property.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE AS RELATED TO PERSONAL DEVICES

- Students using their phones in class will be asked to put them in their pouches.
- If a student has repeated violations in class or other rules are violated, the teacher will bring the phone to the office, and the student can get it at the end of the school day.
- The second time a student's phone is confiscated and brought to the office, a parent will need to pick up the phone.
- Any further violations may result in the student losing the privilege of bringing their phone to school and will require parents to create a cell phone plan with school administrators.

Violation of this policy may also result in suspension or expulsion, as described in Policy 3340 Corrective Actions and Punishment, if appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION & REVIEW OF POLICY

The Board directs the Executive Director or their designee to inform staff, students, and parents/guardians about this policy and how it will be implemented. The Board also directs the Executive Director or their designee to develop practices that reinforce the importance of and ways of addressing:

1. Digital literacy lessons;
2. The effects of cyberbullying;
3. Privacy concerns; and
4. Online disinformation.

The Executive Director shall report to the Board each year about the effectiveness of this policy and shall recommend changes to it as needed.

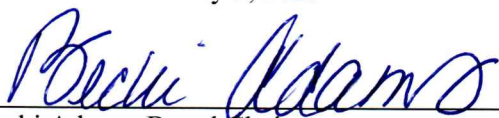
Cross References: 3270 Student Computer and Technology Use
 3270P Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks
 3340 & 3340P Corrective Actions and Punishment

Legal References: Executive Order 2024-11 Phone Free Learning Act

Other References: Policy Checklist for LEAs, Idaho Department of Education,
<https://sde.idaho.gov/topics/cell-phone-policy/>

Policy History:

Adopted On: August 6, 2013
Revised On: November 11, 2015
 February 21, 2018
 July 9, 2025



Becki Adams, Board Chair