

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 237

Section: 200 PUPILS

Title: **Student Use of  
Electronic Devices**

Adopted: August 21, 2014

Revised: October 19, 2017

## 237 STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

### Purpose

The ~~School Reform Commission (SRC)~~ **Board of Education (“Board”)** adopts this policy to contribute toward the maintenance of an educational environment that is safe, **welcoming**, and secure for ~~School d~~ **District of Philadelphia (“District”)** students and employees. Further, the ~~SRC~~ **Board** recognizes that certain electronic devices can be used for educational purposes.

### Definitions

**Electronic devices:** ~~= include a~~ 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.

**Computing device:** Includes but is not limited to any laptop computer, desktop computer, Chromebook, tablet/iPad, or similar technology equipment that is designed for end-user personal computing, information processing or information consumption.

**Wearable device:** Any technology that is designed to be used while worn on a person’s body. This includes but is not limited to smartwatches, fitness trackers, Bluetooth headphones, and VR headsets.

### Authority

As required by the Pennsylvania Public School Code, the Board shall adopt and post on its public website a policy regarding use of electronic devices. [1]

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

~~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.~~

## Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Student Support Services and other collaborating offices, to develop Administrative Procedures that outline acceptable use of electronic devices that are consistent with the Student Code of Conduct, the Acceptable Use Policy, or as designated in an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan. [2][3][4][5]

The Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Information Technology, 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. [5]

## Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

As a general rule, District students should not use personal computing devices for educational purposes while inside District buildings and should instead use their District-issued computing device. A personal computing device includes any computing device that was not purchased or issued by the School District of Philadelphia.

~~Electronic~~Cell phones and wearable devices may be used **only in accordance with school-specific protocols.** ~~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~~**Board** prohibits use of all electronic devices by students in locker rooms, bathrooms, and other changing areas.

The ~~SRC~~**Board** 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 ~~p~~**Policy** shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the **Student** 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-d~~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~~**connection** 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 **Student** 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~~**connection** between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

**Violations of this policy by a student may 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.**

### ~~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 may 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. Policy 113 - Special Education
4. Policy 218 - Student Conduct and Discipline
5. Policy 815 - Acceptable Use of Internet, Technology and Network Resources
6. ~~24 P.S. 1317.1~~
7. Policy 122 - Extracurricular Activities
8. Policy 123 - Interscholastic Athletics
9. Policy 226 - Searches
10. Policy 233 - Suspension and Expulsion

### **Related Information:**

Philadelphia Home Rule Charter – 12-300