

Tyrone Area School District

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ADOPTED: MARCH 10, 2014

237. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments and telephone paging devices/beepers by students on school property, on buses and other vehicles provided by the district, and at school sponsored activities.

The Board prohibits use of personal communication devices, iPods, MP3 players, electronic games and similar electronic devices by students during the school day in district buildings unless authorized by the classroom teacher as part of the Bring Your Own Device exception.

In addition, the Board prohibits use by students of any device that provides for a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device brought to the school by a student.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians, and staff about the district's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in the student handbooks, newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the electronic device.

The confiscated item shall not be returned until a conference has been held with a parent/guardian.

Telephone Pagers/Beepers

With prior administrative approval, the telephone paging device/beeper prohibition shall not apply in the following cases:

1. A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad;
2. A student who has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member; or
3. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

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Cellular Phones

Students may possess cellular telephones on school district property and at school district events. Cell phones shall be turned off during instructional and class time, during passing times between classes, in the cafeteria, and at any other time where use of the device would cause a disruption of school activities. Cell phones that have the capability to take photographs or to record audio or video shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or while a student is engaged in school sponsored activities, unless expressly authorized in advance by the building principal or designee. The principal may, in addition, adopt and enforce reasonable rules and regulations thereto, and as situations may warrant, including but not limited to revoking such privileges for any and all students.

Cell phones may be used only before or after school.

They must be kept out-of-sight during the instructional day. Students must turn off cell phones as soon as the bell sounds for 1st period and not turn them on again until the end of the school day. Students are not permitted to use cell phones to take pictures, as a calculator, or watch.

Cell phones are to remain off during a school evacuation; e.g. fire drills.

Students are not permitted to use a cell phone to call home for an early dismissal or if they are sick.

The principal and school authority reserves the right to scroll and search the contents of a confiscated cell phone or electronic device, including but not limited to its pictures, video, voice and text messages, address books, incoming calls, outgoing calls, calendars, e-mail, and instant messages if the Principal has reasonable suspicion that there is student misconduct.

If a student has a cell phone out during the instructional day, teachers will ask for the device and turn it in to the Attendance Office. Failure to comply will result in a discipline referral for inappropriate behavior and/or insubordination.

- The **First Violation** will result in one (1) detention. The cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- The **Second Violation** will result in one (1) Saturday detention. The cell phone will be returned only to a parent.
- The **Third Violation** will result in one (1) day of ISS. The cell phone will be returned only to a parent. Any further violations could result in AEP placement.

The district shall not be liable for the loss, theft, damage or misuse of any cell phone brought to school by a student and/or confiscated as a result of misuse by the student.

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If a student is in possession of or partakes in the photography of pornographic pictures, law enforcement will be notified and the appropriate school measures will be taken. The student will be suspended from school for no less than three (3) school days and possible expulsion pending a review by the administration as to the severity of the acts. The severity of the act is measured by the type of pornographic material and if the material is child pornography in nature and if the pornography is transmitted via media devices.

- The **First Violation** will result in five (5) days of OSS, possible expulsion, possible change of placement, and legal authorities being contacted.
- The **Second Violation** will result in ten (10) days of OSS, possible expulsion, possible change of placement, and legal authorities being contacted.
- The **Third Violation** will result in ten (10) days of OSS, expulsion hearing, possible change of placement, and legal authorities being contacted.

Personal Communication Devices

Laptop computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) brought to school shall be restricted to classroom or instructional-related activities. Students shall comply with the guidelines set by the classroom teacher or school officials for the educational use of laptop computers and PDAs.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Exception

An exception to the prohibitions on Cellular Phones and other electronic devices capable of Internet access and connection to the district wireless system is granted for students participating and accepted into the district's BYOD program. Devices are only permitted to connect to the district's wireless system and may not use Cellular 3G/4G or similar technology to connect to the Internet.

Use of approved personal electronic devices in the BYOD program is exclusive to classroom or instructional-related activities done with the permission and under the direct supervision of a teacher. At all other times, students will adhere to the prohibitions set forth in this policy.

Other Exceptions

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior approval of the building principal or designee, or when use is provided for in a student's individualized education program (IEP).

REFERENCES

Pennsylvania Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Act –
18 PA C.S.A. Sec. 5703

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School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1317.1

Board Policy – 113, 218, 233, 815