

LACKAWANNA TRAIL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ELECTRONIC AND PERSONAL
COMMUNICATION DEVICES

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 2009

REVISED: MARCH 2014

| 237. ELECTRONIC AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES | |
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| 1. Purpose | The Board recognizes that electronic and personal communication devices are now an integral part of the daily lives and culture of many of the District's students. The Board also recognizes that the presence of these devices has the potential to distract students from the educational mission and to otherwise disrupt the educational environment. Nonetheless, the Board believes that students should be afforded the opportunity to utilize electronic and personal communication devices for educational purposes as long as an educational environment, free from unnecessary disruptions and distractions, is maintained. |
| 2. Authority SC 510 | The Board adopts this policy to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure and free from distractions, while aiming to permit pupils to reasonably and responsibly utilize electronic and personal communication devices for approved educational purposes and in approved locations. |
| 3. Definitions | Electronic and personal communication devices shall include all existing and emerging technological devices that can take still images like photographs; record audio or video; input text; upload and download media; store, transmit or receive messages or images, connect to the Internet (whether wireless, wired, 3G, 4G). Examples of electronic and personal communication devices shall include but are not limited to: radios, walkmans, CD players; DVD players; iPods and other MP3 devices; tablets (iPads, Samsung Galaxy, Google Nexus, Surface), e-readers (Barnes and Nobel Nook, Amazon Kindle), and other tablet PC devices; laptop and netbook computers; personal digital assistants (PDAs); cell phones and smart phones (BlackBerry, iPhone, Android); electronic gaming systems (Nintendo DS, PSP); global positioning system (GPS) devices, pagers/beepers, laser pointers, as well as, existing devices or new technology developed with similar capabilities. |
| Pol. 815 | Examples of an unacceptable device in this policy shall include but are not limited to electronic and personal communication devices with a primary purpose that is the following: electronic gaming devices or consoles, laser pointers, telephone paging device/beeper, modems or routers, and televisions. Educational purpose includes but is not limited to classroom activities, career development, and research. Electronic and personal communication devices may only be used by students for educational purposes when directed to do so by a |

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| <p>SC 510 Pol. 815</p> | <p>teacher or administrator. Students are expected to act responsibly and thoughtfully when using electronic and personal communication devices. Students bear the burden of responsibility to inquire with school administrators or teachers when they are unsure of the permissibility of a particular use of technology prior to engaging in the use.</p> <p>Inappropriate communication includes, but is not limited to, the following: obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language or images typed, posted, or spoken by students; information that could cause damage to an individual or the school community or create the danger of disruption of the academic environment; personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks; harassment (persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person) or stalking of others; knowingly or recklessly posting false or defamatory information about a person or organization; and communication that promotes the destruction of property, including the acquisition or creation of weapons or other destructive devices, as well as, those outlined in Policy 815. If a student is told to stop sending communications, that student must cease the activity immediately.</p> |
| <p>4. Guidelines</p> | <p>Access to the District's electronic communications system is a privilege, not a right. Students shall review this policy and associated technology guidelines before they utilize any electronic or personally owned device. Students shall be permitted to use these resources in accordance with federal, state and local guidelines and administrative building regulations. Noncompliance with applicable regulations may result in suspension or termination of privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with federal, state, and local laws and District policies and guidelines.</p> |
| <p>Pol. 249</p> | <p>Electronic and personal communication devices used in school, during school hours, are not permitted to connect to the Internet through a 3G, 4G, or other content service providers. These devices must access the Internet via the District's content filtered wireless network.</p> |
| <p>Pol. 815</p> | <p>Electronic and personal communication devices approved for educational use may not be attached to the District's network or computer systems without prior written notification and consent of the District's technology department. Users of electronic and personal communication devices shall, prior to being given access, sign user agreements acknowledging awareness of the provisions of this policy and of policy 815, and awareness that the District uses systems to monitor and detect inappropriate use, and may use tracking systems to track and recover lost or stolen equipment. In the case of a minor student, user agreements shall also be signed by a parent/guardian.</p> |
| <p>Pol. 815</p> | <p>The use of all electronic and personal communication devices shall be in conformity with Policy 815.</p> |

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| <p>Pol. 226, 815</p> | <p>Students must be aware of appropriateness of communications when using District or personally owned devices. Inappropriate communication, as defined above, is prohibited in any public messages, private messages, and material posted online by students.</p> <p>The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review the contents of any electronic or personally owned communication device when administration has a reasonable suspicion that a violation has occurred.</p> <p><u>Loss or Damage to Electronic Devices</u> Students are solely responsible for the safe storage of any electronic or personal communication device that they choose to bring to school. The District shall not be liable or responsible for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of any electronic devices that a student brings to school, extracurricular activities, to school sponsored events or trips, or from the confiscation of an electronic devices as the result of a policy violation.</p> |
| <p>Pol. 815</p> | <p><u>Student Responsibility for Data Charges</u> No Student shall be required to provide an electronic or personal communication device as a condition of receiving educational instruction. If a student chooses to utilize such a device pursuant to this policy or policy 815, the student and parents/guardians assume full responsibility for any phone or data charges, or any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet or other network resources that may result from such use.</p> <p><u>Limitation on Technical Support</u> District technology staff is not required to perform maintenance or repairs, troubleshoot, or provide any other technical assistance to students for their electronic or personal communication devices. However, this policy shall not prohibit District technology staff from providing general instructions for the configuration of such devices to access or connect to District-owned technology resources.</p> |
| <p>Pol. 815</p> | <p><u>Sharing Personal Electronic Devices</u> In the event that a student uses an electronic or personal communication device belonging to another student in violation of this policy or policy 815, both students may be liable for consequences resulting from its use.</p> <p>The Board reserves the right to restrict student use of any electronic or personal communication device by any student while in District buildings, on District property and grounds including busses, and at school-sponsored activities. An electronic or personal communication device that is possessed by any student in school buildings or on District property must remain powered off and kept out of sight at all times except as determined by the Superintendent, administrators or designees.</p> |

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| <p>47 U.S.O Sec. 254 20 U.S.C. Sec 6777 Title 22 Sec. 12.3</p> | <p><u>Unauthorized Use and Distribution</u> The Board prohibits the use of electronic and personal communication devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites, changing areas, and any other area where an individual would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.</p> |
| <p>Pol. 218, 233 Pol. 815</p> | <p>The Board prohibits the use of any electronic or personal communication device to take photographs, or to record audio or video at any time during the school day unless the building administrator or designee has authorized the photograph or recording by giving written consent, or unless the use is authorized for educational purposes.</p> <p>The Board also prohibits the taking of pictures or recording of audio or video media of any student or staff member without their permission.</p> <p>The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in discipline including but not limited to confiscation of electronic or personal communication device, suspension, criminal charges, and expulsion.</p> |
| <p>Pol. 218, 233, 815</p> | <p><u>Violations of Policy</u> The Board authorizes building administrators, teachers, and security personnel to confiscate a student's electronic or personal communication device when used in violation of this policy or policy 815. All confiscated electronic devices shall be delivered promptly to the building administrator's office. Violation of this policy and/or confiscation of an electronic or personal communication device may result in disciplinary action as outlined in Board Policy or the student handbook. Building administrators may impose additional disciplinary sanctions against students for violations of this policy, including suspensions from school, filing of criminal charges, or recommendations for expulsion from school as warranted by the specific facts and circumstances in a particular case. The confiscated item may not be returned until building-level procedures have been followed and it is determined that the device will be returned.</p> <p>The prohibitions contained in this policy shall not apply to any student for whom the use of specifically named devices have been approved by administration, provided that the devices are used in precisely the manner authorized.</p> <p><u>Exceptions To Prohibition Of Electronic Devices</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health, safety or emergency reasons. 2. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) or section 504 Service Agreement. |
| <p>Pol. 113</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Other reasons determined appropriate by administration. |

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| <p>SC 1317.1</p> <p>5. Delegation of Responsibility</p> | <p>The Board prohibits possession of telephone paging devices/beepers by students in District buildings; on District buses and other vehicles provided by the District; and at school-sponsored events.</p> <p><u>Exceptions To Prohibition Of Telephone Pagers/Beepers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance, or rescue squad and has obtained advanced approval in writing from school administration with authorization from the chief of their respective organization; 2. A student who has a need for such device due to medical condition of an immediate family member; 3. Other reasons determined appropriate by the administration. <p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing rules and procedures to implement this policy. The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, staff, and parents/guardians about the District's Electronic and Personal Communication Devices policy via the student/staff handbooks, District's website, and other efficient methods. A copy of this policy shall be provided to parents/guardians, upon written request.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code — 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1302-A, 1317.1, 1303.1.A</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations — 22 PA Code 12.3</p> <p>Enhancing Education Through Technology Act — 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6777</p> <p>Internet Safety, Children's Internet Protection Act — 47 U.S.C. Sec. 254</p> <p>Board Policy — 218, 233, 249, 815</p> |
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