

589 CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess, including but not limited to cell phones and other personal electronic devices capable of recording and/or transmitting data or images.

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**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Independent School District 318 holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity and responsible use of technology. Students who possess and/or use technology devices at school, on school buses or school sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment, the importance of learning, and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community. State laws provide employees and students with certain privacy rights. Students' actions during the school day, in class and at school, are considered private under state and federal laws and shall not be recorded or shared without consent of the individual.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

- A. "Cell phone" means any device capable of transmitting or receiving data, messages, and/or voice calls.
- B. "Personal Electronic Devices" means electronic devices not owned by the school district that are worn or possessed by a student for the purpose of accessing data or sending or receiving electronic messages.
- C. "School day" means the period of time between the morning bell signaling the beginning of school through the final bell at the end of the school day. In the absence of bells, the start and end times published by the school shall indicate the school day.
- D. "Devices" or "personal devices" means cell phones and personal electronic devices as defined in this section.

**IV. POLICY**

- A. The policy of the school district is to encourage students to focus on learning and interpersonal communication during the school day.
- B. The District provides appropriate technology devices for learning when specific devices are required.
- C. Cell phones and Personal Electronic Devices are prohibited from the morning bell signaling the beginning of school to the final bell at the end of the day for all students in grades K-12.
- D. Cell phones and Personal Electronic Devices should be powered off and placed in a designated location determined by building administration.

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- a. Elementary: Use of cell phones and Personal Electronic Devices is prohibited from the morning bell signaling the beginning of school to the final bell at the end of the day for all students.
  - b. Secondary: Use of cell phones and Personal Electronic Devices is prohibited in classrooms from the morning bell signaling the beginning of school to the final bell at the end of the day for all students.
- E. Students with disabilities may have modifications to this policy in their IEP or 504 Plan. A student with a medical condition that requires the use of a device may have modifications to this policy in collaboration with school health personnel and building administration.
  - F. Additional guidelines and expectations may be established and communicated through student handbooks.
  - G. For field trips, sporting events, and activities that are held outside of the building during the school day, student possession and use of personal devices will be at the discretion of the advisor or coach.
  - H. Cell phones and other devices may be used appropriately and respectfully before the start and after the end of the school day.
  - I. Students who choose to bring a personal device to school assume all responsibility and risks relating to the possession and use of personal devices, including internet access and data transmission.
  - J. Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment or for inappropriate, unethical or illegal purposes, including but not limited to, transmission or viewing of inappropriate or pornographic material, violations of others' privacy rights, cheating, harassing or bullying behavior. Accessing inappropriate material in school, on a school bus, or at a school activity will result in disciplinary action, even if such access is accidental. Parents are encouraged to monitor and/or restrict cellular internet access for students.
  - K. Parents are advised that personal devices are not subject to the District's internet filters when operating on cellular networks and responsibility for ensuring appropriate access to the internet rests with the individual student and family.
  - L. District employees will not be responsible for storing, safeguarding or troubleshooting any student's personal electronic devices.
  - M. Neither the District nor its employees will be responsible or liable for the theft, loss, data loss, damage, destruction, misuse, or vandalism of any student personal electronic device brought into the District or on school property or on school buses.

**V. VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY**

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- A. Devices not used in compliance with this policy will be confiscated by staff or agents of the school and returned to the student or the parent or guardian of the student, subject to the procedure established in each respective building’s student handbook.
  - a. First violation:
    - i. Elementary: The parent/guardian of the student may pick up the device after the final bell.
    - ii. Secondary: Students may retrieve his or her device from school staff after the final bell.
  - b. Second violation:
    - i. Elementary: The parent/guardian of the student may pick up the device after the final bell.
    - ii. Secondary:
      - 1. Students may retrieve his or her device from the office at the end of the school day.
      - 2. Additional consequences may be applied based on the respective building’s Student Handbook.
  - c. Third and subsequent violations:
    - i. Grades K-12: The parent/guardian of the student may pick up the device from the office after the final bell. A parent meeting will be held to discuss this policy and create a plan for student success.
- B. Neither the District nor its employees are responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen devices while the device is in the custody of a device confiscated pursuant to this policy.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.73 (School Cell Phone Policy)

**Cross References:**