

Policy: _____

Subject: **STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL OR ELECTRONIC TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES WHILE IN SCHOOL (“CELL PHONE POLICY”)**

Supersedes: N/A

Effective: 2013-2014 School Year

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Approved: June 26, 2013

1.0 Purpose

The School District of the City of Detroit (the “District”) desires to promote a positive educational environment conducive to student learning and well being and to optimize classroom instruction and productivity. The District acknowledges that students skilled in the use of information technology to communicate are better prepared for success in the global community and that ownership and use of personal and electronic communication devices has increased significantly in recent years.

Recognizing that the use of these devices must be regulated to reduce the potential for disruption in school, harm to students and detraction from school safety, this policy establishes guidance for student possession and use of personal and electronic communication devices while in school and when using school district networks or school district personal and electronic communication devices.

2.0 Policy

The District prohibits student use of all personal or electronic communication devices, including but not limited to, tablets, cell phones, smart phones (Blackberry, Android, iPhone), iPads, or other personal or electronic communication devices at school and school-sponsored or school-related activities on or off school property, including parking lots, gymnasiums, halls, cafeterias, classrooms, and buses (collectively “in school”) during the instructional day until after dismissal, except in connection with assignments or as otherwise authorized by school administrators.

Students shall be allowed to possess such devices; however, devices must not be visible and must remain turned off during the instructional day, including breaks, lunch and field trips. Permission from a school administrator or designee must be granted for use of such devices for instructional purposes in class. Devices shall not be used to capture, record or transmit words or images of students or staff, without permission. Additionally, devices shall not be used to capture, record or transmit test/quiz or academic information constituting academic misconduct or cheating, to harass, threaten or bully, to forward sexually explicit images constituting sexting or engage in other prohibited or illegal conduct.

Devices will be confiscated if carried in a visible manner or turned on, during the school day and will be returned to the parent/guardian. If confiscated, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make arrangements with school officials to retrieve the device. Devices may be confiscated and searched by authorized school staff if there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of violations of school district policies or law or injury to a student. Staff should also refer to Guidance on Investigating and Responding to Reports of Sexting.

Under no circumstances will the District be responsible for the loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to any student's phone, personal or electronic telecommunications device. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to established disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable law.

Attachments: None

Cross References: DPS Policy 13.01 Acceptable Usage Policy for Students and Staff, DPS Policy 9.09, Student Rights and Responsibilities, DPS Policy 9.13 Code of Student Conduct, DPS Policy 6.35 Student Conduct on School Buses, DPS Policy 9.73 Anti-Bullying Policy, DPS Policy-Interrogations and Searches

Legal References: 20 USC 1232g, 18 USC 1466A, 18 USC 2252, 18 USC 2256, MCL 750.145(c), U.S. Const., amend. IV.