

South Middleton School District

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ELECTRONIC
COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

ADOPTED: November 1997

REVISED: May 21, 2012

237. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES	
1. Purpose	This policy establishes the parameters for the use of Electronic Communications Devices. Student use of electronic devices is permitted only according to the terms outlined in this policy.
2. Definitions	Electronic Devices, a term as used in this policy, includes: all devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, filtered or unfiltered connection to the Internet, but will not be limited to: laptops, netbooks, mobile cellular phones, smart phones, personal digital assistants, personal media devices (Laptops, e-Readers, iPads, tablet computers, and similar devices) and any other Internet-enabled communication devices or other new technologies developed that are capable of connecting to the District's network or other independent mobile network.
3. Guidelines	<p>The Board prohibits use of electronic devices by students during the school day in district buildings, on district property, and while students are attending school-sponsored activities, except when permitted by and under the direct supervision of a teacher for instructional purposes. Student use of electronic devices shall comply with the guidelines set forth by the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology (AUP) and the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) agreement.</p> <p><u>Privacy</u> The Board prohibits use of electronic devices for the purpose of taking photographs or record audio or video during the school day in district buildings, on district property and while students are engaged in school-sponsored activities, except when permitted by and under the direct supervision of a teacher for instructional purposes. The unauthorized student recording of oral communications of any individual(s) possessing an expectation that such communications will not be recorded is prohibited and may be punishable under federal and state laws. Use of electronic devices is prohibited in the nurses' office, guidance office, school office, restrooms, and locker rooms unless school personnel in charge specifically permit use of the electronic device in which case the device may be used ONLY to the extent and in the manner that permission was expressly granted.</p>

The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, possessing 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. Because such violations may constitute a crime under local, state and/or federal law, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies. Administrators are to confiscate devices implicated in this electronic data transfer and immediately contact law enforcement when possession or distribution of such images is discovered or reasonably suspected.

Filtered Internet Use

In addition, the Board prohibits the use of wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet on any electronic device during the school day, on school property, and during any school-sponsored activities. The District will provide filtered, authenticated, wireless access to the Internet for student use.

Academic Integrity

Students will not use electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy. Use of electronic devices is prohibited during testing, except where specifically authorized by the teacher or staff member and where the use of such devices is required for the test.

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage, theft, or misuse of any electronic device brought to school; possessed/used during the school day; in/on district buildings, district property, district vehicles or contracted vehicles; during transport to/from school; while attending school sponsored activities during the school day; and/or any/all school sponsored activities. The District shall bear no responsibility or provide technical support, troubleshooting, or repair of electronic devices owned by anyone other than the District.

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

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.

Discipline

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action (including the range of penalties provided for in the student code of conduct and student handbook) and may result in confiscation of the electronic device. The confiscated item may not be returned until a conference has been held with a parent/guardian or may be turned over to law enforcement officials in appropriate situations. Use of electronic

devices pursuant to this policy is a privilege, not a right.

The Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and similar devices on school property, on buses and other vehicles provided by the district, and at school sponsored activities.

Pursuant to Section 1317.1 of the School Code, possession of telephone pagers or beepers by students is prohibited on school grounds, at school sponsored activities, and on buses or other vehicles provided by the District. 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, provided that the school principal has been properly informed in writing from the President, or another appropriate officer of the volunteer organization that the student is a bona fide and active member of the organization. Proper written notification is required at the beginning of each school year.
2. A student who has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member, provided that the school principal has been properly informed in writing from the attending physician as to the need for the student to be paged.
3. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

References:

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

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

Board Policy – 113, 218, 233, 815