

## **CELL PHONES & PAGERS**

### Policy

The Valley Stream Union Free School District #24 believes that, while the possession and use of personal cell phones and accessories, electronic pagers and similar electronic devices (including, but not limited to, cell phone ear pieces) ("devices") may serve as important safety purposes under certain limited conditions, the use of these devices in school buildings and on school grounds can be disruptive to the educational environment.

The District's Board of Education has developed this Policy to attempt to strike a balance between these competing interests.

Cell Phone and Pager Possession/Use By Students: The District discourages students from bringing devices to school and/or carrying them on any School District property. However, possessing these devices is *not* prohibited. Students may possess a device on campus during school hours. However, students may not power the device on school property at any time while school is in session or during any school activity.

Any student possessing a device that is turned on will be required to surrender the unit to the administration and may be subject to discipline for violation of this Policy.

Exceptions to this Policy exist only where the Superintendent of Schools or the individual school's Principal has given prior authorization.

Cell Phone & Pager Possession/Use By Faculty, Administration and Staff: The District discourages faculty, administration and staff from bringing devices to school and/or carrying them on school district property or at school-related events. Faculty, administration and staff members may possess a device on campus during school hours and at school events on and off campus. However, devices may not be powered on at any time while school is in session, during any working hours, classroom activity during the school day or at any school related event,

whether on or off campus, unless prior authorization is given by the Superintendent of Schools or the individual school's Principal. Notwithstanding this prohibition, devices may be powered on, as long as they are set on silent mode, and being utilized only for school-related emergency purposes. Devices may be used by these categories of personnel, however, during their lunch period, preparation time and unassigned time provided that it is done privately and strictly out of presence of any student.

Note:

The Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent, all Directors, all School Principals, the Maintenance Supervisor and District Maintainer are exempted from this Policy. The District retains the authority to impose appropriate penalties for violations of this Policy that are consistent with existing disciplinary policies.

Board of Education

FIRST READING:	July 7, 2005
ADOPTED:	August 25, 2005
REVISED:	October 27, 2010
REVISED:	April 17, 2018