



## **Use of Wireless Communication Devices**

Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios and similar devices. Students will be required to place their phones and any additional wireless devices in a designated location each day in each class. Devices will remain in the designated location until dismissal from each class. Administration holds the right to restrict phone access and use throughout the day as necessary to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment is maintained.

### **A. Authorized Use**

Administrators may authorize individual students to use wireless communication devices for personal purposes on the rare occasion there is a reasonable need for such communication at the administrator's discretion.

Any student who has a medical condition in which a wireless device is necessary to monitor the well-being of the student will be allowed to maintain possession of the device. This may include conditions such as monitoring blood sugar for diabetes, monitoring heart rhythms, or other physician-prescribed medical needs.

Although use generally is permitted before and after school, use of cellular phones and other wireless communication devices may be prohibited on school buses when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the buses. In addition, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs are prohibited from using wireless communication devices during such programs.

### **B. Consequences for Unauthorized Use**

School employees will immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed or visible in violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless communication devices will be returned only to the student's parent.

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with the Student Code of Conduct ranging from In School Suspension to Out of School Suspension for repeated violations.

Should a student be found in unauthorized possession of his/her wireless communication device during the school day, the following factors should be considered when determining appropriate consequences: whether the wireless communication device was used (1) to reproduce images of tests, obtain unauthorized access to school information or assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; (2) to bully or harass other students; (3) to send illicit text messages; (4) to take and/or send illicit photographs; or (5) in any other manner that would make more severe disciplinary consequences appropriate.

### **C. Search of Wireless Communication Devices**

A student's wireless communication device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, board policy, the Code of Student Conduct or a school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.

### **D. Liability**

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of a cellular phone or other personal wireless communication device.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-36](#), [-390.2](#)