

LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: 237
SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: ELECTRONIC DEVICES
ADOPTED: November 19, 2018

237. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Purpose

The Board recognizes that mobile phones and electronic devices are now an integral part of the daily lives and culture of many of the district's students. Nonetheless, the Board believes that students should have an educational environment free from unnecessary disruptions and distractions. The Board has determined that the presence of mobile phones and electronic devices has the potential to distract students from their educational mission and to otherwise disrupt the educational environment.

Authority

The Board adopts this policy to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure and free from distractions for its students, while aiming to permit pupils to reasonably and responsibly utilize mobile technology.

Definition

Electronic Devices shall include any personal communication device including mobile telephones, smartphones, smart watches; any device that can capture still images or movies; any device that can record, store, display, transmit, or receive audio or video; personal digital assistants (PDA's); any device that can provide a connection to the Internet (whether wireless, wired, cellular); laptops and tablet computers, electronic gaming systems, e-readers, and laser pointers.

Guidelines

The Board prohibits all students from any use of electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, and other changing areas.

The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, 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 state and/or federal law, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

The Board prohibits the use of personal electronic devices to take photographs, or to record audio or video at any time during the school day or at any school-sponsored event that is not open to the general public, unless the building administrator has authorized the photograph or recording by giving written consent, unless the use is authorized for educational purposes as outlined below.¹

The Board recognizes that district-issued devices are used by students during the school day, and students will be permitted to use these devices as directed by the teacher. Students are permitted to use electronic devices during the school day for approved educational purposes and in approved locations only.

The Board prohibits the use of any personal electronic devices during instructional times during the school day (from the beginning of first period until the end of last period), which includes homeroom and study halls, except that students may use electronic devices during instructional times for instructional purposes if, and only if, they have the prior permission of the teacher or building administrator to do so or at other times as designated by the building administrator.

Students in the middle and high schools are permitted to use electronic devices during noninstructional times, as designated in student handbooks, so long as such use does not:

1. Disrupt school activities or instruction.
2. Violate any other board or school policies.
3. Violate state or federal law.
4. Violate any of the prohibitions set forth elsewhere in this policy.

If an electronic device utilizes the district's Internet connection, the school district's Social Media Acceptable Use, Student Internet, E-mail, and Network Resources Access Agreement, and Use of Mobile Technology Policies shall apply and are incorporated herein by reference.

¹ 18 Pa.C.S.A. 5703.

Advisors and coaches of extracurricular activities shall have discretion to regulate and limit the use of electronic devices by high school students while participating in sports or extracurricular activities and school-sponsored trips.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the ability of the building administrator or his/her designee to grant approval for the use of an electronic device by a student because of a student's urgent health or safety needs, or in the event of an emergency.

Nothing in this policy shall affect the provision or use of an electronic device as stated in an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Service Agreement.

Loss or Damage to Electronic Devices

Students are solely responsible for the safe storage of any personal electronic devices that they choose to bring to school. The district shall not be liable or responsible for the loss or damage to any electronic devices that a student brings to school, co-curricular or extracurricular activities, to school-sponsored events or trips, or from the confiscation of electronic devices as the result of a policy violation.

Student Responsibility for Data Charges

No student shall be required to provide a personal electronic device as a condition of receiving educational instruction. If any student chooses to utilize such a device pursuant to this policy, the student and parents/guardians assume full responsibility for any phone or data charges that may result from such use.

Limitation on Technical Support

District information technology staff may not provide technical assistance to students for their personal devices. However, this policy shall not prohibit district information technology staff from providing general instructions for the configuration of such devices to access or connect to district-owned technology resources.

Penalties for Violations

The Board authorizes building administrators, and security personnel to confiscate a student's electronic devices when used in violation of this policy. All confiscated electronic devices shall be delivered promptly to the building

administrator's office. Parents/Guardians will be notified of the procedure to reclaim the personal device from the building administrator in a timely manner.

Building administrators may impose additional disciplinary sanctions against students for violations of this policy, including suspensions from school or recommendations for expulsion from school as warranted by the specific facts and circumstances in a particular case.

Development of Administrative Guidelines

The Superintendent or designee may develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students are made aware of this policy and any administrative guidelines by means of each school's student handbook, the district website, or other reasonable means of written communication.