

# Student Use of Personal Technology



## Document Information

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## Overview

The Board of Education seeks to maintain a safe and secure environment for students and staff. Advances in technology have made it possible to expand the learning environment beyond traditional classroom boundaries. Using personal electronic devices during instructional time can enable students to explore new concepts, personalize their learning experience and expand their global learning opportunities. Additionally, the use of personal technology devices is ubiquitous in today's society and standards for student use during non-instructional time should adapt to this change. This policy defines the use of personal technology during instructional and non-instructional times and reinforces the standard that all use, regardless of its purpose, must follow the guidelines outlined in the Student Responsible Use Policy (RUP), the District's *Code of Conduct*, and the Dignity for All Students Act.

Personal technology includes all existing and emerging technology devices that can take photographs; record or play audio or video; input text; upload and download media; connect to or receive information from the internet; and transmit or receive messages, telephone calls or images. Examples of personal technology includes, but are not limited to, iPods and MP3 players; iPad, Nook, Kindle, and other tablet PCs; laptop and netbook computers; personal digital assistants (PDAs), cell phones and smart phones such as BlackBerry, iPhone, or Droid, as well as any device with similar capabilities. Unacceptable devices shall include, but are not limited to, gaming devices or consoles, laser pointers, modems or routers, and televisions.

## Instructional Uses

Instructional purposes include, but are not limited to, approved classroom activities, research, college admissions activities, career development, communication with experts, homework and other activities as deemed appropriate by school staff.

Personal technology use by students is permitted during the school day for educational purposes and/or in approved locations only. Teachers will indicate when and if classroom use is acceptable. Students are expected to act responsibly and thoughtfully when using technology resources. Students bear the burden of responsibility to inquire with school administrators

and/or teachers when they are unsure of the permissibility of a particular use of technology prior to engaging in such use.

### **Non-Instructional Uses**

Appropriate use of personal technology during non-instructional time is also allowed if students follow the guidelines in the RUP and *Code of Conduct*. Non-instructional use includes texting, calling and otherwise communicating with others during free periods and in common areas of the school building such as the hallways, cafeteria, study halls, buses and student lounges. Other non-instructional uses may include such things as Internet searches, reading, listening to music, and watching videos. This use during non-instructional time must be conducted in a safe and unobtrusive manner. Devices must be in silent mode to avoid disrupting others.

### **Liability**

The District shall not be liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of any personal technology brought to School. The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, and/or confiscate personal technology when administration has reasonable suspicion to believe that a violation of school policy or criminal law has occurred.

The Board expressly prohibits use of personal technology in locker rooms, restrooms, Health Offices and any other areas where a person would reasonably expect some degree of personal privacy.

### **Prohibition during State Assessments**

All students are prohibited from bringing electronic devices into a classroom or other location where a New York State assessment is being administered. Test proctors, test monitors and school officials shall have the right to collect prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test and hold them while the test is being administered, including break periods. Admission to any assessment will be denied to any student who refuses to relinquish a prohibited device.

Students with disabilities may use certain devices if the device is specified in that student's IEP or 504 plan or a student has provided medical documentation that they require the device during testing.

### **Permission**

Students will not be permitted to use personal technology devices in school or at school functions until they have reviewed the RUP, the applicable sections of the *Code of Conduct* and associated technology guidelines. The District reserves the right to restrict student use of District-owned technologies and personal technology on school property or at school-sponsored events, at the discretion of the administration.

Students must follow the guidelines for use set out in the District *Code of Conduct* and the Responsible Use Policy at all times. Consequences for misuse will follow guidelines in the District's *Code of Conduct*. The District will develop regulations for the implementation of this policy that shall include, but are not limited to, instructional use, non-instructional use, liability, bullying and cyberbullying, and privacy issues.