

STUDENT USE AND POSSESSION OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Policy 443.6

Waunakee Community School District

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This policy is intended to apply to students when they are at school, participating in any school-sponsored activity, and at all other times when the student is subject to the authority and supervision of District officials. At such times and under the conditions established in this policy, students may possess an electronic communication device such as a cellular telephone or other personal electronic device with communications functions or with recording, photographic, or video-imaging capabilities. Students may also use portable media players when they do not interfere with the learning environment and have the specific permission of the supervising teacher.¹ Students may use such devices only with school permission that has been granted pursuant to this policy.

Building principals are authorized to establish school rules and acceptable use guidelines for students' limited and non-disruptive use of electronic devices for educational, safety, medical, vocational, or other legitimate reasons.

The rules shall permit students at all grade levels to use a personal electronic device as needed (e.g., to contact a responsible adult) in any emergency situation that involves an immediate threat to the health, safety, or property of any person. However, when carrying out school emergency response plans an administrator or other staff member may direct students to turn off their personal electronic devices so that emergency communication networks are not overwhelmed and so that emergency response efforts are not jeopardized.

Students shall not use electronic communication devices:

- To engage in bullying or harassment.
- To communicate test answers, photograph tests, or engage in any other conduct that constitutes or facilitates academic dishonesty.
- To take, disseminate, transfer, or share any images, recordings, or other content that is obscene, lewd, illegal, sexually-explicit, or otherwise inappropriate for the school setting.
- In areas where other people have a reasonable expectation of privacy, including all locker rooms, bathrooms, or other changing areas (except in an emergency).
- To create, communicate, share, or post recordings or images of any other student or staff member without permission from that student or staff member (except in an emergency).
- In violation of the District's rules surrounding students' acceptable use of technology.

Possession and use of an electronic communication device by a student under this policy is a privilege. A student who chooses to exercise this privilege does so subject to the following conditions:

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- Students are allowed to use electronic communication devices during passing times and lunch periods, excluding classrooms, restrooms and locker rooms, except where specifically permitted by instructors
- The District is not responsible for the safety or security of personal electronic equipment that students possess or use at school or at a school-related activity. Students who possess or use such device(s) do so at their own risk with regard to possible theft, damage, misappropriation of data/equipment, or other loss.
- If the District determines that a student has possessed or used such a device in violation of the law, this policy, or a school rule or directive, the student is subject to appropriate school-imposed consequences, such as the possible loss of privileges, suspension, and/or expulsion. The District may also refer certain matters to law enforcement.
- If a District official has reason to suspect or determines that a student has possessed or used an electronic device in violation of the law, this policy, or a school rule or directive, a District official may temporarily confiscate the device and/or turn the device over to law enforcement.
- A device possessed or used by a student may be subject to an appropriately limited search by a District official when the official has reason to suspect that such a search may lead to evidence of a crime or a violation of Board policy or school rules. The scope of any such search will be limited to the suspected violation.

To the extent prohibited by law, school employees shall not request or require a student to disclose the access information for any of the student's personal Internet account(s), including those that may be accessible through a student's personal electronic communications device.

Neither this policy nor any school rules shall be construed to limit a student's ability to possess and appropriately use an electronic device that functions as assistive technology that is necessary for a student's education and that is required or authorized under an individualized education program (IEP) or a Section 504 plan.

Students shall be informed of this policy annually via student handbooks.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 118.258	[student use and possession of electronic communication devices]
Section 120.13(1)	[school board power to set conduct rules and discipline students]
Section 175.22	[locker room privacy statute and policy requirement]
Section 947.0125	[unlawful use of computerized communication device]
Section 995.50(2)	[intrusion on the privacy of another]
Section 995.55	[access to personal Internet accounts]

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Cross References:

WASB PRG 443.5 Sample Policy 1

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