

AR 5131

Possession of Cellular Phones and Other Personal Electronic Signaling Devices

The Board of Education believes that a productive learning environment is one that is free of unnecessary distractions.

In accordance with Education Code 48901.5, personal electronic signaling devices on all district school campuses are subject to regulation by the Board, or its designee, while students are on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, while under the supervision and control of school district employees, and while on school buses. This includes after-school detention and Saturday School.

It is the District's position that the use of camera phones and devices with recording functions has the potential to invade the privacy rights of individuals, exploit personal information, and compromise the integrity of educational programs. Students in possession of cell phones on school grounds that contain inappropriate, violent or pornographic pictures/videos, inappropriate or harassing text messages, or information stored for the purposes of cheating academically will face serious disciplinary action. Students who use a wireless communication device to photograph, videotape or otherwise record individuals without their permission, or whose wireless communications device is visible while in a test environment, will have his or her phone confiscated and held by a school official until the outcome of the investigation.

The Board imposes the following stipulations and restrictions in order to create a learning environment free of the distractions that might result from unrestricted use of cellular phones and other electronic signaling devices:

Elementary School (Kindergarten - Fifth Grade)

1. Students may possess electronic signaling devices on campus, including but not limited to cellular/digital telephones.
2. During school hours, cellular phones and other electronic signaling devices must be powered off or placed in "Do Not Disturb" mode and stored out of sight at all times while school is in session;
3. In accordance with Education Code 48901.5, no student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes.
4. Other exceptions to the policy will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the site administrator or his/her designee.

5. If a student is found to be in possession of an electronic signaling device without proper authorization, a district employee will use best judgment and determine which of the following options to exercise:

- a. Confiscate the device until the end of the school day or activity;
- b. Confiscate the device and turn it over to the site administration before the end of the school day.

6. If a device is confiscated and turned over to the site administration, the site administrator or designee will determine when and how the device will be returned.

7. A student who violates this policy is subject to discipline in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulation, and site rules.

8. Students bring electronic signaling devices on campus at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged electronic signaling devices.

Middle School (Sixth - Eighth Grade)

1. Students may possess electronic signaling devices on campus, including but not limited to cellular/digital telephones.

2. Cellular phones and other electronic devices must be powered off or placed in "Do Not Disturb" mode and kept out of sight at all times while school is in session, including passing periods and breaks. Teachers may permit the use of student's personal device for academic purposes only. Any student use of personal devices for academic purposes must be pre-approved in writing by the site principal.

3. In accordance with Education Code 48901.5, no student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes.

4. If a student uses an electronic signaling device while school is in session or if a student's electronic device rings while school is in session and proper authorization has not been given for the use of the device, a district employee will use best judgment and determine which of the following options to exercise:

- a. Direct the student to turn off the device and put it out of sight immediately;
- b. Confiscate the device until the end of the class period, school day, or activity;
- c. Confiscate the device and turn it over to the site administration before the end of the school day.

5. If a device is confiscated and turned over to the site administration, the site administrator or designee will determine when and how the device will be returned.
6. A student who violates this policy is subject to discipline in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulation, and site rules.
7. A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possessing a personal electronic device at school or school-related events.
8. Students bring electronic signaling devices on campus at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged electronic signaling devices.

High School (Ninth - Twelfth Grade)

1. Students may possess electronic signaling devices on campus, including but not limited to cellular/digital telephones.
2. Cellular phones and other electronic signaling devices must be powered off or placed in "Do Not Disturb" mode and kept out of sight during class time. Teachers may permit the use of student's personal device for academic purposes only;
3. In accordance with Education Code 48901.5, no student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student's health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes.
4. Students shall be allowed to use cellular phones and other electronic signaling devices before school, after school, and during breaks.
5. If a student uses an electronic signaling device while on campus or if an electronic device rings while a student is on campus and proper authorization has not been given for the use of the device, a district employee will use best judgment and determine which of the following options to exercise:
 - a. Direct the student to turn off the device and put it out of sight immediately;
 - b. Confiscate the device until the end of the class period, school day, or activity;
 - c. Confiscate the device and turn it over to the site administration.
6. If a device is confiscated and turned over to the site administration, the site administrator or designee will determine when and how the device will be returned.
7. A student who violates this policy is subject to discipline in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulation, and site rules.

8. A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possessing a personal electronic signaling device at school or school-related events.

9. Students bring electronic signaling devices on campus at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged electronic signaling devices.

The use of electronic signaling devices for unlawful and inappropriate reasons is prohibited. These include, but are not limited to, invasion of privacy, endangerment, sexual harassment, and cheating. Such a use will be subject to discipline in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulation, and California Education Code.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6182 - Opportunity School/Class/Program)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)