

Electronic Communication Devices

Introduction

The possession and use of electronic communication devices by students in school may be disruptive to the educational setting. However in specific circumstances electronic communication devices may serve a legitimate purpose in school.

As a result the school administration can regulate the possession and use of electronic communication devices. Examples of regulated devices include, but are not limited to, cellular telephones, personal computers, hand-held computers, internet enabled and/or other communication devices.

These limits can be put into effect while the student is on school premises or attending school activities that are held either on or off school premises. School premises include any place or vehicle which is owned, rented, or under the control of the School District of Bonduel.

Permission may be granted for the use or possession of an electronic communication device if the student's principal, teacher, coach or advisor determines that the device is necessary for a medical, educational, vocational or other legitimate purpose. It is also acknowledged that given the continual changes and improvements in electronic communication devices that these guidelines may not always apply to all new communication devices. In such instances building principals or administrators may use their discretion to ban or allow such devices pending a review by the school board of the guidelines contained within this policy.

Guidelines for Possession and Permissible Use

Student use of electronic communication devices while on school premises or attending school activities that are held either on or off school premises is governed by each schools' handbook during the normal school hours of 7:45 AM until the conclusion of the regularly scheduled school day. Use on school premises or at school activities at other times may be regulated or restricted due to related District concerns, a student's individualized education plan (IEP), or individual accommodation plan (IAP), if such plans are on file. Examples of District concerns include safety, potential for disruption to educational processes, and potential security issues related to connecting a personal computer to the District network.

The District does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen devices. Investigation by school employees of loss, theft or damage will be minimal unless it can be established that the student adequately secured the device, such as keeping it in a locked locker in which case local law enforcement including the district's police liaison officer would be contacted.

Permission to possess a regulated device is dependent on observing the following rules:

1. The student accepts full responsibility for the security of the device.
2. The student agrees that the electronic device will remain turned off during restricted times as noted above. This means that the device will not ring, beep, vibrate, buzz or exhibit any displays that indicate that the device is activated.

Failure to follow these guidelines regulating possession and/or use of electronic communication devices will result in disciplinary action as determined by the building principal. Such disciplinary action may include temporary confiscation of the device. The building principal may involve law enforcement, if the device is used for an illegal purpose or for a purpose that causes or could cause harm to others.

A notice of this rule will be included in student handbooks.

Legal Reference: Wis. Stats. 118.258

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