

## **USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

*Policy Code:*

**4318**

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The board recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices have become an important tool through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students are permitted to possess wireless communication devices, including cellular phones, as well as other electronic devices, on school property. However, the devices may not be activated, used, displayed, or visible on school property during the instructional day or on school buses transporting student to and from home unless otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel. Wireless communication and other electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios, scanners, laser pointers, televisions, radios, compact disc players, cassette players, other portable personal music devices, cameras, handheld video games, video recording devices, and similar devices.

### **A. AUTHORIZED USE**

Administrators may authorize individual students to use wireless communication or other electronic devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such use. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes, provided that they supervise the students during such use. Although use generally is permitted before and after school, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs are prohibited from using wireless communication and other electronic devices during such programs, unless otherwise permitted.

### **B. CONSEQUENCES FOR UNAUTHORIZED USE**

School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication or other electronic devices that are on, used, displayed, or visible in violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated devices will be returned only to the student's parent.

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy will be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

The following factors should be considered when determining appropriate consequences: whether the wireless communication or other electronic device was used (1) to reproduce images of tests, obtain unauthorized access to school information, or assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation, or school rule; (2) to bully or harass other students; (3) to send illicit text messages; (4) to take and/or send illicit photographs; or (5) in any other manner that would make more severe disciplinary consequences appropriate.

**C. SEARCH OF DEVICES**

In accordance with policy 4342, Student Searches, a student's wireless communication or other electronic device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, or a school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.

**D. LIABILITY**

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication and other electronic devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage of any device.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -390.2

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315), Student Searches (policy 4342)

Adopted: August 1, 2016