

REFERENCE COPY

FILE: EHBA
Basic

EXPLANATION: STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES

MSBA created this NEW policy to address the growing trend of districts allowing students to use their personal electronic devices in the classroom. This policy is supplemental because not all districts may want to adopt this instructional practice. This policy is not required by law.

Students need to graduate from school with useful technology skills. Many districts, constantly faced with budgetary shortfalls, find it difficult to provide their students with the latest technology. In a perfect educational world, each student would be able to have his or her own computer, but realistically this is not feasible. School districts around the country have attempted to find a way around this problem by allowing students to bring their own electronic devices, such as laptops, mobile phones, tablets or even video games, to school to use for educational purposes throughout the school day.

This is a dramatic change from what many districts have been doing: banning or restricting mobile phone and personal technology use in schools. There are serious issues that come with allowing students to bring non-district-issued technology into the schools, including the ability to technologically support a variety of electronic devices, dealing with students who may not have access to any devices, and unauthorized use, theft or damage of the devices. Many of these issues are covered under the general discipline policy.

According to "Technology in Education," a September 1, 2011, article published in *Education Week*:

While there is much on-going research on new technologies and their effects on teaching and learning, there is little rigorous, large-scale data that makes for solid research, education experts say. The vast majority of the studies available are funded by the very companies and institutions that have created and promoted the technology, raising questions of the research's validity and objectivity. In addition, the kinds of studies that produce meaningful data often take several years to complete—a timeline that lags far behind the fast pace of emerging and evolving technologies.

See <http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/technology-in-education> for the full article.

Despite this lack of available research, MSBA has scoured the available information and tried to piece together reasonable guidelines for districts that want to explore this instructional option. This policy should provide a starting point for those districts considering allowing students to bring their own technology to school. Districts may choose to implement the program incrementally, perhaps designating one class that will allow student electronic devices

and then expanding as students, teachers and the district become more comfortable with the concept.

Several sources MSBA used in developing this policy repeatedly referenced allowing students to bring any type of device, including gaming devices. The reasoning behind this is that many students, especially younger students, would have more ready access to gaming devices than to other personal technology, such as tablets. This concept is relatively new, and it remains to be seen whether this strategy will be effective. Districts that do not wish to include gaming devices should strike the term from the definition on the first page of the policy as well as from the definition on the accompanying forms.

Districts that adopt this policy should carefully examine regulation JG-R and student handbooks and modify language that bans or limits the use of electronic devices during the school day accordingly.

Additional changes have been made to the policy at the request of the district.

MSBA recommends that copies of this document be routed to the following areas because the content is of particular importance to them. The titles on this list may not match those used by the district. Please forward copies to the district equivalent of the title indicated.

	Board Secretary		Business Office		Coaches/Sponsors
	Facility Maintenance		Food Service		Gifted
	Human Resources	X	Principals		Library/Media Center
	Health Services		Counselor		Special Education
	Transportation		Public Info/Communications	X	Technology

DRAFT

STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES

The Camdenton R-III School District recognizes that students increasingly have access to and are using personal electronic devices for many purposes, including educational purposes. The Board authorizes the superintendent **and/or designated authority** and building principals to designate classes, grade levels and/or buildings where teachers are encouraged to utilize and incorporate personal electronic devices into their instruction and lesson plans in accordance with this policy. Teachers who incorporate such technology into their classrooms shall, with the assistance of the principal or designee, make accommodations for those students who do not have access to personal electronic devices. No student shall be penalized in any fashion for failure to own or have access to personal electronic devices.

Definitions

District Networks – Include both wired and wireless networks maintained by the district.

Personal Electronic Devices – **Are communication devices with voice, text, data, and/or navigation capabilities that are able to access the Internet, transmit phone calls, text messages, e-mail messages or video communications, perform word processing and other computer and online applications, and/or provide location information. These include devices which are capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, producing and/or displaying information and data. These devices** include, but are not limited to, electronic communication equipment such as laptops, portable media players, mobile phones, smart phones, tablet computers and video game devices owned by a student or a student's parent/guardian.

Acceptable Use

Possession or use of any personal electronic device on district property is a privilege, and students who fail to abide by this policy may forfeit this privilege.

When approved by the building principal **and/or designated authority**, students will be allowed to bring personal electronic devices to school for use during the school day in the designated classrooms. Each building administrator, under the direction of the superintendent or designee, shall determine the appropriate areas of the school where students may use personal electronic devices and the extent to which such devices will be incorporated into the classroom curriculum.

Students may use personal electronic devices during the school day only if the student and parents/guardians sign and agree to the terms of the district's personal electronic devices agreement and the district's technology usage agreements unless excused by the superintendent or designee. **Students shall only access the Internet through district-provided networks during the school day.**

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Student devices with a data plan through the students or parent's/guardian's mobile provider must have the external network turned off when on school premises during the school day. The district will utilize a technology protection measure, such as a filter, on all district networks. Students shall not bypass or attempt to bypass the district's networks through any means.

Possession or use of personal electronic devices must not in any way disrupt the educational process in the school district, endanger the health or safety of the student or any other person in the district, invade the rights of others at school or involve illegal or prohibited conduct.

All use of personal electronic devices during the school day shall be for appropriate educational purposes only, not for personal use, and shall be consistent with the educational objectives of the district. Students using personal electronic devices must follow the same rules that apply to the use of district-provided technology. The district may examine the student's device to the extent allowed by law. The district administration may involve law enforcement if the district has reasonable suspicion that the device has been used for an illegal purpose or for a purpose that causes harm to others.

The district shall not be liable for theft, loss, damage, misuse or unauthorized use of any personal electronic communication device brought to school or school-sponsored programs/activities by a student.

No school funds shall be used to purchase programs or applications to be downloaded on any personally owned communication device utilized by students unless approved by designee.

Failure to abide by this policy shall subject the student to disciplinary action as outlined elsewhere in Board policy.

Delegation of Responsibility

The superintendent or designee is granted the authority to create and enforce regulation(s), rules, procedures and forms to accompany this policy.

He/she shall annually notify students, parents/guardians, employees and guests about the use of personal electronic communication devices by publishing the policy on the district's website and ensuring it is included in student handbooks, posted notices and/or any other methods.

The superintendent working with technology and/or designee is responsible for annual training of administrators and employees who are responsible for the use, supervision, discipline, investigation, confiscation, searching and/or other matters involving students' use of electronic communication devices, including personal electronic communication devices.

Guidelines

1. In accordance with this policy, personal electronic communication devices may be used in authorized areas or as determined by the administration as follows:
 - ▶ For educational and instructional purposes.
 - ▶ When the educational, safety, emergency, medical or security use of the device is approved by the teacher/facilitator, program supervisor or designee.
2. In accordance with this policy, personal electronic communication devices may not be used in unauthorized areas or as determined by the administration as follows:
 - ▶ Devices that control/interfere with the operation of the buildings' systems, facilities and infrastructure or digital network. No exception or permission may be authorized for students to possess or use such devices.
 - ▶ During tests, examinations and/or assessments unless the teacher/facilitator authorizes such use. When personal electronic communication devices are prohibited for use on tests, they must be stored in closed items, such as book bags or purses, and may not be visible or turned on.
 - ▶ To cheat, engage in unethical conduct or threaten academic integrity.
 - ▶ To access and/or view Internet websites that are blocked by the district's filtering system.
 - ▶ To take action that would invade the privacy rights of any student or employee, violate the rights of any student or employee, or harass, threaten, intimidate, promote or engage in violence, bully or cyberbully any student or employee.
 - ▶ In locker rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms or any other changing area.
 - ▶ To create, send, share, view or disseminate sexually explicit, obscene, pornographic, child pornographic or lewd images or video content, as such acts may be a crime under state and/or federal law.
 - ▶ To disrupt the educational or learning environment.

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3. Devices that violate this policy and/or other relevant district policies shall be confiscated and retained by the building administrator. The confiscated device shall not be returned until a conference is held with the parent/guardian.
4. Violations of this policy should be reported to the assistant superintendent in charge of technology.

District's Wireless Network

The district does not guarantee that the district's wireless network is completely secure or that the district can protect the privacy of those using the district's wireless network. The district does not guarantee that all areas of the district shall have wireless coverage or that the wireless service level will be consistent from day to day. The district is not responsible for any loss of information that may arise from the use of the district's wireless network or for any loss, injury or damages resulting from the use of the wireless connection.

District Responsibility

The district will not be responsible for technological support of students' personal electronic devices, and students are required to ensure that all devices are free from viruses before bringing them to school.

Students who bring personal electronic devices to school do so at their own risk. The district assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, damaged or misplaced devices, including those that have been confiscated by district personnel.

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Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Adopted:

Revised:

Cross Refs: JG, Student Discipline

Camdenton R-III School District, Camdenton, Missouri