



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Students
Title	Prohibition of Electronic Devices
Code	237
Status	Active
Adopted	February 24, 2011
Last Revised	May 15, 2023

Purpose

The Board of School Directors (“Board”) of Springfield School District (“District”) recognizes that mobile phones and electronic devices have become an integral part of the daily lives and culture of many of the districts's students. Nonetheless, the Board has determined that the possession of most electronic devices by students is not a vital part of the educational process. Such items, under most circumstances, serve as a distraction to the educational process and some can be used in the furtherance of inappropriate and unsafe activities. Laser pens and other laser devices are particularly capable of causing harm and disruption and are therefore prohibited from being in a student’s possession in school, during a school-sponsored activity, or on a District vehicle.

Authority

Students are discouraged from possessing certain types of electronic devices during school hours; however, their possession does not constitute a violation of this policy unless the student fails to comply with the following provisions:[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

1. Students are not to use any audio listening devices (CD players, MP3 players, etc.), handheld electronic games, cameras, recording devices, or other such devices during instructional time unless they have permission from a staff member to do so as part of a classroom activity. In addition, the distribution, emailing, or posting on an Internet site of any unauthorized photograph, audio recording, or video recording taken while on the District network, while in school buildings or on school grounds, or while on any school bus or commercial vehicle providing transportation to and from school or any school-related activities is prohibited.[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)
2. Students may possess cell phones for use outside of instructional time. Use is interpreted as using cell phone function or feature, not just sending or receiving telephone calls. Cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during instructional time. The student bears total responsibility for safeguarding this and any other device in his/her possession. Students must comply with building guidelines published in the student handbook.
3. Telephone paging devices are prohibited in school with the following exceptions which require a written request and the principal’s approval:[\[2\]](#)

- a. A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance, or rescue squad (the chief of the company or squad must make the written request).
- b. A student who is in need of a telephone paging device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member (a health care provider must make the written request).
- c. A student who is provided with a paging device for employment purposes when such device remains in the student's vehicle while on school grounds (the employer must make the written request).

The District reserves the right to define the educational value and place restrictions or prohibitions on the possession or use of any electronic device currently available, or that may become available in the future, whether or not it is addressed in this policy.

The District assumes no responsibility for the loss, theft, damage, or misuse of any electronic device that is brought onto school grounds, to a school-sponsored activity, or on any District vehicle. Students are responsible for producing any electronic device during metal detector screening and bag checks. The District will not be responsible for any items damaged in the metal detector screening or bag checking process.

Discipline

Violation of any part of this policy may result in consequences ranging from confiscation and loss of privileges, to detention, suspension, and referral to the Board for possible expulsion.[3][4]

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Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 510](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1317.1](#)

3. Pol. 218

4. Pol. 233

Pol. 113

Pol. 815