

ELECTRONIC SIGNALING AND MEDIA DEVICES

Possession and Use of Electronic Signaling and Media Devices

Purpose

To regulate the possession or use of electronic signaling and media devices and other portable electronic or communication devices by students of the District while the students are on campus, attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of District employees.

Definition

These regulations are intended to regulate the possession and use of all of the following:

1. Electronic signaling and media devices that operate through the transmission or receipt of radio waves, including, but not limited to, cellular or digital telephones, pagers, hand-held radios, personal data assistants (PDAs), and laptop computers with wireless phone capability. This definition of electronic signaling and media device also includes any new technology developed for similar purposes.
2. Other portable electronic or communication devices, including, but not limited to: I-Pods, MP-3 players, handheld game devices, and laser pointers.
3. Cameras, video cameras, or other electronic listening or recording devices or other portable devices that capture images, record video, and/or take photographs.

Possession and Use

Possession and use of electronic signaling and media devices or other portable electronic or communication devices while students are on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of District employees, is permitted only under the circumstances described herein.

1. Except as specified herein, students may possess and use electronic and media devices and other portable electronic or communication devices before the bell signaling the beginning of the first instructional period of each school day and following the bell signaling the end of the final instructional period of each school day. Students may also use such devices during the lunch period or while attending school-sponsored athletic events.
2. Students must ensure that permitted devices are turned “off” and out of sight during instructional periods, or as directed by a District employee. All amplification and notification functions, including “silent” and “vibrate” modes, of such devices may not be utilized while the student is participating in classroom instruction and other school activities.

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3. Permitted devices may not disrupt any instructional program or school-sponsored activity.
4. Electronic signaling and media devices or other portable electronic or communication devices may be used by students outside of those times authorized herein during an emergency affecting the school or the community, or in the event of a medical emergency requiring immediate response.
5. Laser Pointers: Students may not bring laser pointers onto any District premises unless it is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose. Prior to bringing a laser pointer onto District premises, students shall first obtain written permission from the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall determine whether the requested use of the laser pointer is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose.
6. Electronic Listening or Recording Device: Students may not use any electronic listening or recording device in any classroom without the prior consent of the teacher and the principal.
7. Cameras, Video Cameras and other Devices that Capture Images or Take Photographs: Students may not use cameras, video cameras, or any other device that captures images, records video, and/or takes photographs, while on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities other than school-sponsored athletic events, or while under the supervision and control of school district employees, without prior consent of the principal or the classroom teacher, as appropriate.

Emergency or Particularized Justifiable Circumstances

Emergency or particularized justifiable circumstances may arise where a student's interests will be best served by the use of an electronic signaling and media device or other portable electronic or communications device outside of those times permitted by District policy or regulation. Therefore, the Board directs principals or designees to consent to the use of such devices by students for emergency or justifiable purposes.

Students must register such device with the principal's office and receive the principal's or designee's consent to possess and use the device before they are permitted to use those items outside of those times permitted by District policy or regulation. Additionally, parents or guardians must request in writing authorization for a student's use of the electronic signaling and media device or other portable electronic or communications device. Failure to receive prior consent to use an electronic signaling and media device will be considered a violation of District policy and grounds for revoking this privilege and imposing disciplinary action.

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Possession or Use for Essential Health Purposes

Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to prohibit a student who requires an electronic signaling and media device or other portable electronic or communication device for essential health purposes from the limited use of such a device. A student who needs to use an electronic signaling and media device or other portable electronic or communication device for essential health purposes shall furnish to the principal or designee a written determination by a licensed physician and/or surgeon that the limited use of the device is essential to the health of the pupil.

Use on District School Buses

Use of electronic signaling and media devices or other portable electronic or communications devices by students while riding to and from school on Salinas Unified High School District buses is permitted at the discretion of the bus driver, and so long as it does not impact the safe operation of the school bus. However, students may not use such devices on District or commercially chartered buses used for school-sponsored activities during the official instructional day, except with the prior consent of the principal, teacher, or other District employee, or as required for essential health purposes, as discussed above.

Violation of Board Policy or District Rules and/or Regulations

Unauthorized use or possession of electronic signaling and media devices and other portable electronic or communication devices disrupts the instructional program and distracts from the learning environment. Therefore, unauthorized use or possession of such devices may be grounds for disciplinary action.

District teachers and employees are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce District rules and regulations. If a District teacher or employee observes or becomes aware of a violation of these rules and/or regulations, the teacher or employee may:

1. Direct student to turn device off;
2. Confiscate the device and return it to the student at the end of the instructional period;
3. Confiscate the device and turn it in to the school office at the end of the instructional period; or
4. Notify principal or designee of violation and request that principal or designee take disciplinary action, as appropriate

Electronic signaling and media devices and other portable electronic or communication devices confiscated from students and turned in to school office may, at the discretion of the principal or designee, be returned to the student at the end of the instructional day, or kept until principal or designee consults with parent or guardian.

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Repeated unauthorized use or possession may lead to disciplinary action. Depending on circumstances, disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to: (1) confiscation of device, as set out, above; (2) conference with parent/guardian; or (3) suspension and/or expulsion. A student who is found to have violated this policy more than two times during a single academic year may, at the discretion of the principal or designee, be prohibited from possessing any electronic signaling and media devices or other portable electronic or communications device on campus for the remainder of that academic year.

OPTIONAL--A principal or designee may establish procedures at a school site which are more restrictive than these regulations, provided that those procedures do not place any restrictions upon ability to possess or use electronic signaling and media devices or other portable electronic or communications devices for medical reasons, as set forth in Board policy.

No Liability for Loss, Damage, or Destruction

The District assumes no liability for loss, damage, or destruction of any such electronic signaling and media devices and other portable electronic or communication devices brought onto school grounds, left in automobiles or school lockers, or after confiscation by District employees.

Each principal or designee shall develop appropriate procedures for recording the confiscation and release of electronic signaling and media devices and other portable electronic or communication devices at each school site.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

48901.5 Electronic signaling device; possession or use prohibited; exception

51512 Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording devices

PENALCODE

417.27 Laser pointers; possession on school premises