

USE OF DISTRICT AND
PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

South Lyon Community Schools recognizes that electronic communication devices (ECD) serve several important functions in our society, including the enhancement of instruction. In consideration of the beneficial value and also the potential for misuse of these devices, this policy has been developed to balance the integrity and instructional quality of our classrooms with the age and maturity levels of our students.

Student/Parent Handbooks will include rules for district and personal ECD use and consequences for misuse. This shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. ECD may not be used during instructional time without staff permission. Violations will result in confiscation and parent/guardian notification.
- B. ECD may not be used to violate the privacy of others or to send or receive personal messages, data, images or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on tests or examinations. Violations will be addressed as outlined in the student handbook.
- C. The use of ECD to take photographs of or otherwise record individuals without the consent of the person entitled to privacy not only is a violation of this policy, but is also a violation of State law, and thus a crime.
- D. Possessing, sharing, and/or distributing an inappropriate photograph or caricature of any student or staff member, via cell phone, digital camera, or other electronic or personal communication device, on school property or during any school function or event is a disruption to the educational process. Possession, sharing and/or distribution is disruptive irrespective as to the time or place of the origin of the photo or caricature. Students who immediately notify an adult or immediately delete an unsolicited photo, shall not be regarded as in possession.

“Inappropriate photograph or caricature” is defined as, but not limited to:

- Nude or partially nude photos;
- Sexually explicit photos;
- Photos of illegal behavior (i.e., consuming drugs, underage drinking, theft, battery, etc);

- Demeaning or degrading caricatures;
- Electronic manipulation of a photo so that it is demeaning and/or degrading to the individual.

Determination of “inappropriate” shall initially be made by the building principal, with appeal to the Assistant Superintendent of CITA whose decision shall be final.

Consequences include Administration having the right to impose the following:

1. Suspension up to 10 days or, in extreme cases, refer the student to the Board for a disciplinary hearing;
 2. Confiscation of the cell phone, camera, or electronic communication device;
 3. Loss of privilege to possess a cell phone, camera, or electronic communication device on school property for remainder of school career;
 4. If incident occurs 2nd semester of senior year, elimination or reduction in an individual’s participation in graduation activities; and
 5. Referral to law enforcement as appropriate.
- E. ECD may not be used to violate any other rule under the Code of Conduct or the Acceptable Use Policy. If the devices are used in this way, additional penalties prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Acceptable Use Policy will apply.
- F. ECD may be transported on the school bus, but may only be used with the following guidelines:
1. All provisions in B – E above apply to students while on the school bus (including field and athletic trips) and may result in school discipline in addition to bus disciplinary consequences.
 2. Cell phone calls may not be made or received while the bus is underway.

3. If the ECD is used to produce sound (music, game, etc.), ear buds must be worn.
 4. If a bus driver directs a student to cease use of the ECD, the student will be expected to comply. Failure to comply will be considered insubordination.
 5. If circumstances warrant for student safety and well-being, a bus driver, coach, or trip sponsor may determine that use of any ECDs by all students is prohibited for the duration of a bus ride.
 6. Violation(s) of these guidelines will result in a bus referral and appropriate progression of discipline and/or loss of the privilege to use an ECD while on the school bus.
- G. If an ECD is damaged, lost, or stolen while on school property, the District is not responsible for recovering or reimbursing the student or his/her parent/guardian for the replacement of the device.

P.A. 132, 2003

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