

Students and Telecommunication Devices

Students in possession of telecommunications devices, including, but not limited to: ear buds, headphones, smart watches, and cellular phones, while on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities during the school day from 8:00am-3:15pm will observe the following conditions:

- A. Telecommunication devices will be operated only before 8:30am and after 3:15pm (1:45pm on Friday), unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger and a school administrator authorizes the student to use the device; All telecommunication devices will be placed in the student's locker during school hours (8:30am-3:15pm). In the middle school and high school students will also be able to use their devices during the scheduled lunch time for that day.
- B. Students will not use telecommunication devices in a manner that poses a threat to academic integrity, disrupts the learning environment, or violates the privacy rights of others;
- C. Students will not send, share, view, or possess pictures, text messages, emails, or other material depicting sexually explicit conduct, as defined in [RCW 9.68A.011](#), in electronic or any other form on a cell phone or other electronic device, while the student is on school grounds, at school-sponsored events or on school buses or vehicles provided by the district;
- D. When a school official has reasonable suspicion, based on objective and articulable facts, that a student is using a telecommunications device in a manner that violates the law or school rules, the official may confiscate the device, which will only be returned to the student's parent or legal guardian;
- E. By bringing a cell phone or other electronic devices to school or school-sponsored events, the student and their parent/guardian consent to the search of the device when school officials have a reasonable suspicion, based on objective and articulable facts, that such a search will reveal a violation of the law or school rules. The scope of the search will be limited to the violation of which the student is accused. Content or images that violate state or federal laws will be referred to law enforcement;
- F. Students are responsible for devices they bring to school. The district will not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of devices brought onto school property or to school-sponsored events;
- G. Students will comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning the appropriate use of telecommunication or other electronic devices (for example, phones are not allowed to be used in the elementary at any time of the day); and
- H. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Cross References: 4310 - District Relationships with Law Enforcement and other Government Agencies
 3241 - Student Discipline
 3207 - Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
 2022 - Electronic Resources and Internet Safety

Management Resources: 2019 - October Policy Issue
 2010 - October Issue
 2010 - June Issue
 Policy News, February 2004 Evolution of Cell Phone Use

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Tonasket School District
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