

DRAFT
last revised 8/12/08

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

FILE: JI

The Board of Education regards the possession of a wireless communication and/or electronic device as a privilege. The use of these devices can also be a disruption to the instructional process and create a safety hazard on a school bus. ~~Through this policy, the Board of Education provides students the privilege of possessing wireless communication and/or electronic devices on school property, subject to the following provisions:~~

Students and parents assume the risk of loss when an electronic device is brought onto school grounds for any reason. The school system is not responsible for the loss of, theft of or damage to any wireless communication and/or electronic device, including any such device confiscated by school personnel. Nothing in this policy shall prevent a principal from immediately banning from school the possession of any item or device when used in the violation of a specific provision of the code of student conduct for which a more stringent punishment is warranted.

No elementary or middle school student shall have in their possession on school property use, display, and/or transmit, in the school building during the instructional day (start of school until dismissal) or on a school bus, any wireless communication and/or electronic device, including but not limited to cell phones, laser pointers, paging devices, two-way radios, iPods, any device possessing photographic capabilities, CD/MP3 players, electronic games, PDA, Blue Tooth Bluetooth device, or other communication and/or electronic devices not specified capable of the same or similar functions etc. Any hardship request may be made by a parent directly to the principal.

Except as provided below, no high school student shall use, have in view, or have on their person or in their personal belongings during the instructional day (8:00 a.m. through 3:01 p.m.) any wireless communication and/or electronic device, including but not limited to cell phones, laser pointers, paging devices, two-way radios, iPods, any device possessing photographic capabilities, CD/MP3 players, electronic games, PDA, Bluetooth device, or other communication and/or electronic devices not specified capable of the same or similar functions. All such devices must be stored in locked cars or locked lockers during the instructional day. Devices in lockers must be in the "off" position and shall be stored in such a manner as to make them inaccessible during the instructional day.

High school students and elementary/middle school students with permission from their principal may have wireless communication and/or electronic devices in their possession on yellow school buses. However, all such devices must be in the "off" position and shall be stored in such a manner as to make them inaccessible during the bus ride. The use of such devices on white activity buses is strongly discouraged, but shall be at the discretion of the adult sponsor/coach in charge of the white activity bus. All hardship requests will be reviewed by the principal and the decision will be made based on the health and safety of the student.

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School administrators have the right to conduct searches of students upon reasonable suspicion to ensure the enforcement of this Policy. Any school staff member witnessing a violation of this Policy at his/her school shall report it to a school administrator immediately.

Any violation of this Policy shall be a violation of the Student Conduct/Discipline Code and/or Student Conduct on School Buses Code.

~~The device must be in the “off” position and stored out of sight during the instructional day and on a school bus. The school will not be responsible for wireless communication and/or electronic devices that are lost or stolen. Middle school and high school students are not permitted to display and/or use wireless communication and/or electronic devices on elementary school property from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.~~

~~Students may use a wireless communication/electronic device only when deemed necessary by a school administrator.~~

~~Using Use of a wireless communication and/or electronic device during the instructional day in the school building and on school property or and on a school bus at any time will be a violation of the Student Conduct/Discipline Code and/or Student Conduct on School Buses Code and this Policy.~~

Elementary Schools

Elementary school students may neither possess nor use wireless communication and/or electronic devices at their schools.

Middle Schools and High Schools

The consequences for a violation of this policy are as follow:

An “offense” shall occur each time this Policy is violated regardless of the specific device or devices involved. However, the possession of multiple devices at one time shall be regarded as one offense. The consequences for violation of this Policy are as follow:

- A. *First offense* – ~~The wireless communication and/or electronic device will be confiscated and held until a parent/guardian conference is conducted~~ and a parent conference with the principal or designee will be held. A contract **must** be signed by the parent/legal guardian, student and principal/designee.
- B. *Second offense* – ~~The student’s wireless communication and/or electronic device will be confiscated and returned to the parent after the student serves a detention~~ a parent conference with the principal or designee will be held. **At the discretion of the principal, the student will receive either** a three-day in-school or out-of-school

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suspension, at the principal's discretion. The device will be returned to the parent after 45 calendar days.

- C. *Third offense* – The wireless communication and/or electronic device will be confiscated and returned to the parent at the end of the semester or 30 calendar days after confiscation, whichever is longer and a parent conference with the principal or designee will be held. At the principal's discretion, the student will be assigned to receive either a five-day in-school or out-of-school suspension for a minimum of five school days. The device will be returned to the parent after 90 calendar days.
- D. *Possession of a wireless communication and/or electronic device during a test or quiz*--In addition to the above consequences, a grade of zero will be assigned for the test or quiz. Any student who has a visible cell phone or one that rings during a test will be considered cheating on that test. In addition, any student who has a visible cell phone or one that rings during a test will go to the second offense outlined in this section, even if the student has no prior history of being caught with a cell phone.

Any student not following the directives of a school employee during the confiscation of any device is subject to a minimum three-day out-of-school suspension.

~~Students participating in school sponsored after/before school activities may use their wireless communication and/or electronic device after 3:30 p.m. or before 7:30 a.m. in the school building with the permission of their supervising sponsor.~~

The use of a wireless communication/electronic device in a criminal act will result in prosecution.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-391 and G.S. 115C-36

APPROVED BY BOARD
AND EFFECTIVE 5/21/07

REVISED _____