

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.

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 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.

Except as provided below, no high school ~~student~~ **or middle school students** 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.~~ **from the beginning school bell until the dismissal bell**) 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 **and/or 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 at the discretion of the sponsor/coach in charge of the white activity bus.

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.

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 device will be confiscated 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 device will be confiscated and a parent conference with the principal or designee will be held. At the discretion of the principal, the student ~~will~~ **may** receive either a three-day in-school or out-of-school suspension. The device will be returned to the parent after **a maximum of 45 calendar days or sooner at the discretion of the principal.**
- C. *Third offense* – The device will be confiscated and a parent conference with the principal or designee will be held. At the principal's discretion, the student ~~will~~ **may** receive either a five-day in-school or out-of-school suspension. The device will be returned to the parent after **a maximum of 90 calendar days or sooner at the discretion of the principal.**
- 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~~ **disciplinary action at the discretion of the principal.**

The principal may give special approval (at the request of the teacher) for the possession and/or use of electronic devices by a student(s) for special instructional activities during the school day(s).

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

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