

EDUCATIONAL USE OF STUDENT-OWNED ELECTRONIC DEVICES

POLICY

Purpose

The Franklin Regional Board of School Directors recognizes that many students possess personally owned electronic devices and that learning opportunities can be enhanced through “Bring Your Own Device” educational programs in which teachers permit the purposeful use of student-owned electronic devices in support of curriculum learning objectives.

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess, including but not limited to cellular phones, laptop or mini-computers, e-readers, digital picture/video cameras and/or camera phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), iPods, MP3s, pagers and other personally owned electronic devices capable of transmitting data or images.

Authority

The Franklin Regional School District holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity and responsible use of existing and emerging technologies, such as cellular phones, digital picture/video cameras and/or phones and other personal electronic devices capable of capturing and/or transmitting data or images. Students who possess and/or use such devices at school or school-sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community.

The District reserves the right to restrict student use of District-owned technologies and personally owned devices on school property or at school-sponsored events. Personally owned devices are permitted for use during the school day for educational purposes and/or in approved locations only.

Neither the District nor its employees shall be liable for the loss, damage, misuse or theft of any personally owned device brought to school.

The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy and review a personally owned device or file when Administration has a reasonable suspicion that a violation has occurred. At least two (2) adults will be present at any time to monitor or inspect said device.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about this policy by publishing a notice about this policy in student handbooks and by other efficient methods, including posting the policy on the District's web site. Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior approval of the building principal or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for the efficient and orderly implementation of this Policy.

Guidelines

Use of student-owned electronic devices during school hours or at school-sponsored events is a privilege, not a right. Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Violations of this policy by a student may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, confiscation of the electronic device, temporary custody, banning of the student from bringing personal electronic devices to school, or criminal prosecution, if applicable.

- All District students shall review and sign a statement of acceptance of this policy and associated technology procedures before students will be permitted to use any school and/or personally owned devices.
- Personally owned devices must access the Internet via the District's content-filtered wireless network, and not through 3G, 4G or other content service providers.
- Students may not utilize any technology at school or at school-sponsored events to harass, threaten, demean, humiliate, intimidate or embarrass their classmates or others in a manner which results in disruption or detracts from the educational environment.
- Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any such unauthorized media may result in discipline, including, but not limited to, suspension, criminal charges and expulsion.
- Students shall not use cellular phones or other electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy.

Definitions

A **personally owned device** shall include all existing and emerging technology devices that can take photographs; record audio or video; input text; upload and download media; and transmit or receive messages or images. Examples of a personally owned device shall include but is not limited to: MP3 players and iPods; iPads, Nooks, Kindle, e-readers and tablet PCs; laptop and netbook computers; personal digital assistants (PDAs), cell phones and smart phones such as Blackberry, iPhone or Droid; as well as any device with similar capabilities.

Educational purposes include classroom activities; career development; communication with experts; homework and research. Students are expected to act responsibly and thoughtfully when using technology resources. Students bear the burden of responsibility to inquire with school administrators and/or teachers when they are unsure of the permissibility of a particular use of technology prior to engaging in the use.

Inappropriate communication includes, but is not limited to, the following: obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening or disrespectful language or images typed, posted or spoken by students; information that could cause damage to an individual or the school community or create the danger of disruption of the academic environment; personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks; harassment or stalking of others; knowingly or recklessly posting false or defamatory information about a person or organization; and communication that promotes the destruction of property, including the acquisition or creation of weapons or other destructive devices. If a student is told to stop sending communications, that student must cease the activity immediately. The school district will educate all students about appropriate on-line behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Unacceptable devices shall include, but not be limited to, gaming devices or consoles, laser pointers, modems or routers, printers and televisions.

References

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 5-510, 1317.1, 1303.1.A

Pa Wiretapping/Electronic Surveillance Act – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5703

Act 103 of 1989

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code 12.3

Enhancing Education Through Technology Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6777

Internet Safety, Children’s Internet Protection Act – 47 U.S.C. Sec. 254

Franklin Regional School District Internet and Computer Usage Policy (Policy 7008) and
Bullying Prevention Policy (Policy 8503)

Franklin Regional School District Harassment Policy (Policy 8507)