

POSSESSION/USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN SCHOOL

Code **JICJ** Issued **10/06**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for student possession/use of electronic communication devices in school.

Electronic communication devices include mobile/cell telephones, pagers, walkie-talkies, blackberries or other telecommunication devices that emit an audible signal, vibrate, display a message or otherwise summon or deliver a communication to the possessor.

Communication device ownership by adolescents has proliferated over the past years. These devices are used for various reasons, including emergency use and parental communication. To reflect the societal trend and changing state law, the district will allow the possession of communication devices by students under the following circumstances.

- The use of such devices is not allowed during the regular, academic school day. These devices must be turned off during regular school hours.
- The school principal may limit and/or confiscate such devices if the use of these devices causes a disruption to the school. The student's parent/legal guardian may pick up the confiscated device from the school principal at their convenience.
- These devices may be turned on and used after regular school hours and during extracurricular activities.

The district will make an exception to these rules when a student needs a communication device for a legitimate, documented medical reason. However, before a student may possess a device that is turned on during school hours, the principal must have written, approved evidence on file of the student's medical need for the device.

The district will also make an exception to these rules when a student aged 18 or over is an active member of a volunteer firefighting organization or volunteer emergency service organization. However, before a student may possess a device that is turned on during school hours, the principal must have written, approved evidence on file of the student's membership in a volunteer firefighting or emergency medical service organization.

The district specifically bans the use of camera devices to violate the privacy of a student or staff member.

Adopted 8/13/91; Revised 10/13/92, 11/12/02, 6/14/05, 10/10/06

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code of laws, 1976, as amended:
1. Section 59-63-280 - Possession of paging devices by public school students; mobile telephones included; adoption of policies.