

Lisbon School District

15 Newent Road
Lisbon, CT 06351

5131.81

Students

Electronic Devices

Cellular Phones/Electronic Communication Devices

The Lisbon Board of Education (Board) recognizes the importance of technology in the educational setting. While cellular telephones and other wireless devices may serve as a form of technology, they may also pose a significant distraction to the learning environment if used without the direction of the teachers. There is a growing body of evidence that suggests student access to cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be detrimental to student emotional wellbeing and academic growth. Therefore, the use of electronic communication devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right.

Students are prohibited from using electronic communication devices, except as provided within this policy. An electronic device includes, but is not limited to, the following devices used for personal communication and entertainment: cell phone, smartphone, smart watches, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), iPod, iPad, laptop computer, tablet computer or other similar electronic device.

During instructional time, from the official school start time to end of the day school dismissal, which includes class periods, lunch period, electronic communication devices will be limited as follows:

Grades PreK-4: Cell phones are not permitted on school premises.

Grades 5-8: Cell phones are to be stored in school lockers between 8:15 and 3:00 pm. Students are permitted to use their phones during after school homeroom (3:00 – 3:10 pm) per teacher's permission (Example – practice cancelled, parent needs to be notified).

Parents may provide a combination lock to be used if storing cell phones in lockers. Students are responsible for the safety and use of their privately owned technological devices. If a privately owned technological device is stolen, lost, or damaged, a report should be made to the building principal, who will investigate the loss in a manner consistent with procedures for stolen or damaged personal property. Students and parents should be aware that the Board is not liable for any privately owned technological device that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school. Furthermore, the Board shall not be liable for any data plan charges or any other costs associated with the use of private technological devices. For that reason, students are advised not to share or loan their privately owned technological devices with other students.

Students shall take full responsibility for their device and shall keep it safely stored when not in use. Students are required to take home their privately owned technological devices at the end of each school day.

These restrictions will be followed unless permission is granted by an administrator in the main office or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Parents should not expect to communicate directly with their children using their devices during designated school time. Parents who need to communicate with their child in the case of an emergency should call the school office and communicate with school personnel the nature of their emergency who will then communicate as appropriate with the student impacted by the emergency.

Cell phones/electronic devices are a privilege and not a right and may therefore be confiscated by a District administrator, teacher, paraprofessional, coach, or bus driver when a violation of District policy and/or procedures for such devices occurs. Any student who violates the terms of this policy will be subject to consequences as follows (referral levels are defined in the student handbook):

1st offense- Phone taken, parent picks phone up at end of day - level two referral.

2nd offense-Administration will take action based on PBIS guidelines and referral is upgraded to level three.

3rd offense- Student gives cell phone to office at arrival to school and picks up at end of day, duration of this consequence to be determined by Administration.

Electronic communication devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates students conduct rules or violates the rights of others. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms;
- Cheating;
- Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting);
- Inappropriate use of cell phones and/or electronic communication devices at other school activities or events, on or off campus, outside of the school day.

The District is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage of any electronic device brought to school. If the device is confiscated for violation of District policy and/or procedures, the District, and its employees shall not be responsible for loss or damage. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's device or account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131 – Conduct)

(cf. 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.82 – Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material)

(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)

(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)

(cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

Policy Adopted: 11/28/2011-Lisbon Board of Education

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