

Lisbon School District

15 Newent Road
Lisbon, CT 06351

5131.81

Students

Electronic 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 a student's emotional well-being and academic growth. Therefore, the use of electronic communication devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right.

Cell phones/Smartwatches

Students are prohibited from using electronic communication devices such as cell phones/smartwatches, except as provided within this policy.

From the student's arrival to the student's dismissal from school cell phone/smartwatch usage will be limited as follows:

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

Grades 5-8: Cell phones/smartwatches should be off and out of sight when students walk into the building. Cell phones/smartwatches are to be stored in lockers throughout the school day. Students are permitted to use their cell phones/smartwatches during after-school homeroom (3:00 – dismissal) per the teacher's permission (For example – practice is canceled; a parent needs to be notified). Note: Dismissal is the time when a student leaves the building, or goes to a sport or afterschool activity.

Parents may provide a combination lock to be used if storing cell phones/smartwatches in lockers. Students are responsible for the safety and use of their cell phones/smartwatches. If a cell phone/smartwatch 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 cell phone/smartwatch 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 a private cell phone/smartwatch. For that reason, students are advised not to share or loan their privately owned cell phones/smartwatches with other students.

Students shall take full responsibility for their cell phones/smartwatches and shall keep it safely stored when not in use. Students are required to take home their cell phone/smartwatch 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 cell phone/smartwatch 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.

The use of cell phones/smartwatches during the designated timeframe presented in this policy is a privilege and not a right and the device may therefore be confiscated by a District administrator, teacher, paraprofessional, or coach, 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.

Other Electronic Communication Devices

Students are prohibited from using other electronic communication devices for personal communication and entertainment, such as video recording devices, iPods, iPads, laptop computers, tablet computers, or other similar electronic devices unless permission is granted by an administrator in the main office.

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- Device is confiscated, parent picks up the device at end of day - level two referral.

2nd offense- Device is confiscated, parent picks up the device at the end of day, Administration will take action based on PBIS guidelines, and referral is upgraded to level three.

3rd offense- Device is confiscated, parent picks up the device at the end of the day, level three referral, consequence and duration of consequence handled by Administration.

Cell phones/smartwatches and other electronic communication devices may never be used in any school related setting 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 or recording of any kind;
- 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)

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