

### **Students and Electronic Communication Devices**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for student possession/use of cell phones/electronic communication devices (ECDs) in the Lynden School District.

Possession of an ECD by a student is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms and provisions of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

- A. An ECD is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, image or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor. The following devices are examples of ECDs: cellular and wireless telephones, pagers/beepers, personal digital assistants (PDA's) BlackBerries/Smartphones, Nooks, Kindles, laptops and other e-readers, WiFi-enabled or broadband access devices, two-way radios or video broadcasting devices, and other devices that allow a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text or other information.
- B. Students may not use ECDs to access and/or view Internet web sites that are inappropriate or otherwise blocked to students at school while on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.
- C. Students are prohibited from using ECDs to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e. picture, video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. Using an ECD to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted, unless authorized by the building principal.
- D. Students are prohibited from using ECDs to take pictures or record video/audio in locker rooms, bathrooms, or on school buses or other district vehicles. The use of ECDs to take pictures or record video/audio is also prohibited in classrooms, unless deemed appropriate by the teacher and used for educational/instructional purposes only.
- E. Students are prohibited from using ECDs in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated (see policy #3207 Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying).
- F. Students are also prohibited from using an ECD to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using ECDs to receive such information.

- G. Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of the ECDs. The district and board recommend students not share ECDs unless it is for a specific academic purpose. The district and board assume no responsibility for theft, loss, damages or vandalism to ECDs brought onto its property, or the unauthorized use of such devices.
- H. Parents/legal guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office.
- I. Students may use school phones to contact parents/legal guardians during the school day with permission of the administration.
- J. Students, parents/legal guardians, teachers and staff members should be aware that the district may take disciplinary action against students consistent with policy #3240 Student Conduct Expectations and Reasonable Sanctions regarding student conduct away from school grounds.

**Students in grades 6-12** may use personal ECDs at school for instructional purposes. Guidelines for acceptable use will be shared with students and parents.

**Students in grades Pre-K-5** are discouraged from bringing ECDs to school. Building administrators and staff will inform students and parents of opportunities to include ECDs as learning tools on an individual classroom basis.

1. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the ECD. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement. Discipline will be imposed in a progressive manner based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or circumstances surrounding a particular violation.
2. If the ECD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/legal guardian only after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed. Any ECD confiscated by district staff will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location in the school building until it is retrieved by the parent/legal guardian. ECDs in district custody will not be searched or otherwise tampered with unless school officials reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search will be conducted in accordance with policy #3230 Student Privacy and Searches. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privilege to bring an ECD to school for the remainder of the school year. The possession of obscene or pornographic or other illicit material on an ECD will result in a referral to law enforcement officials.

3. Use of ECDs will follow the same network access guidelines as included in the Acceptable Use Agreement. Examples of behavior which is not tolerated includes but is not limited to:
- Cheating;
  - Bullying or harassment;
  - Displaying, accessing, or downloading obscene or pornographic materials; or
  - Disruption of the learning environment.

### Consequences

- First offense – warning/confiscate device and return to student at the end of the school day, unless the device is needed longer for examination by school or district personnel.
- Second offense – confiscate device/return to parent/legal guardian following a meeting with principal.
- Third offense – confiscate device/return device to parent/legal guardian and privilege to have device is revoked for the remainder of the school year.
- Fourth offense – confiscate device/return at the end of the school year.
- The school principal may mitigate these consequences and determine if it is appropriate to restore ECD privileges sooner.

Cross References: Policy 2022  
Policy 3207  
Policy 3241  
Policy 4310

Electronic Resources  
Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation  
and Bullying  
Classroom Management, Corrective  
Actions or Punishment  
Relations with Law Enforcement  
Agencies, Child Protective Agencies  
and County Health Officials

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