

## **Students and Telecommunication Devices**

The district is committed to safe and supportive learning environments for all students. The board focuses on the educational achievement of every student. The district holds high expectations for all students and gives all students the opportunity to achieve personal and academic success. The district recognizes that personal electronic devices can support communication and learning when used appropriately; however, inappropriate or excessive use disrupts learning, interferes with healthy interpersonal interactions, and negatively impacts student well-being and the school environment.

Students in possession of telecommunications devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, while on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities will observe the following conditions:

- A. Telecommunication devices will be turned on and operated only before and after the regular school day unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger or a school administrator authorizes the use of devices during other times. Exceptions allowed by administration are to be clearly outlined in the school's handbook. Exceptions for student health plans, 504 accommodation plans, and Individual Education Programs (IEP's) that explicitly specify allowable use, will be honored. It is the expectation that all students, staff members, and visitors to schools understand and follow stated expectations.
- B. Students will not use telecommunication devices in a manner that poses a threat to academic integrity, disrupts the learning environment, or violates the privacy rights of others;
- C. Students will not send, share, view, or possess pictures, text messages, emails, or other material depicting sexually explicit conduct, as defined in [RCW 9.68A.011](#), in electronic or any other form on a cell phone or other electronic device, while the student is on school grounds, at school-sponsored events or on school buses or vehicles provided by the district;
- D. When a school official has reasonable suspicion, based on objective and articulable facts, that a student is using a telecommunications device in a manner that violates the law or school rules, the official may confiscate the device, which will only be returned to the student's parent or legal guardian. Law enforcement will be contacted if school officials have reasonable suspicion there may be a violation of the law;
- E. Students are responsible for devices they bring to school. The district will not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of devices brought onto school property or to school-sponsored events;
- F. Students will comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning the appropriate use of telecommunication or other electronic devices; and
- G. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with their school's student handbook.

Lynden School District No. 504  
BOARD POLICY

Policy: 3245

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Cross References: 4310 - District Relationships with Law Enforcement and other Government Agencies  
3241 - Student Discipline  
3207 - Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying  
2022 - Electronic Resources and Internet Safety

Management Resources: 2019 - October Policy Issue  
2010 - October Issue  
2010 - June Issue  
Policy News, February 2004 Evolution of Cell Phone Use

Classification: Important

Adopted: March 17, 2016  
Revised: June 22, 2023  
Revised: June 25, 2026