

File: J45

STUDENT CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students' use of cell phones and other electronic devices does not interfere with the education program or school activities within the Chicopee Public Schools. Cell phones are defined in general as current and emerging technologies that are wireless units that send and/or receive electronic communications in an analog or digital data transmission. Other types of electronic devices include any mechanical or electrical device that is capable of playing, recording, storing, or transmitting sounds, images, or data and that are not provided as part of the educational process by the schools.

Chicopee Public Schools is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged cell phones or electronic devices. Students who bring these items to school do so at their own risk.

The use and possession of cell phones and electronic devices at school or on school property is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, students who choose to bring cell phones and electronic devices to school or onto school property, including buses, agree to the following policy:

1. Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during class time and at other times as directed by school staff. Students may use cell phones and electronic devices before or after school hours and at after-school sports/activities with permission of the coach/advisor.

For students at Chicopee Comprehensive High School and Chicopee High School: Students may use cell phones during lunch in designated areas. Students may also use earbuds or headphones during lunch in designated areas. The ability to use earbuds or headphones during lunch may be revoked if their use creates a communication problem.

2. Students may only use cell phones and electronic devices in the classroom setting with teacher approval for educational purposes that are closely aligned with the course content. Individual classroom cell phone procedures will be outlined by the teacher and must be honored by students.
3. Earbuds and headphones may not be used at any time during school hours unless given explicit permission from a teacher or administrator.
4. Any allowable use of cell phones and electronic devices must not violate existing school policies including but not limited to policies regarding:
 - bullying, intimidating, and harassing behaviors via texting and social networking sites;
 - academic integrity (e.g. sharing of assessment or assignment information);
 - safety protocols (e.g. fire drill procedures, hallway passing, etc.);
 - acts that may interfere with the learning opportunities of other students or the orderly operation of the school; and
 - use of a cell phone or electronic device with camera, video or voice recording

function in a way or under circumstances which infringe the privacy rights of others (e.g. recording the voice or image of any individual without his/her consent is strictly prohibited).

Violations of this policy will be subject to progressive discipline. Multiple violations of the policy may result in further disciplinary action, including the loss of the privilege to possess cell phones and electronic devices at school.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Searches

The search of cell phones and other electronic devices for pictures, text messages, video, audio, or uploaded/downloaded material in connection with an investigation regarding an alleged violation of school rules or illegal conduct is permissible if the search is reasonable in its inception and justified in its scope. Acceptable searches may include, but are not limited to, searches for video, audio, pictures, text messages, emails or other data regarding:

- assaults and/or fights;
- harassment/intimidation/bullying or sexting;
- possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances, illegal drugs, or alcohol;
- identification of ownership of stolen or lost devices; and,
- documentation of cheating.

If a search of an electronic device is found to contain evidence pertinent to an investigation, the school administration has the sole discretion to confiscate the device, contact the police, or give the device to law enforcement officials.

1st reading: May 16, 2018

2nd reading: June 6, 2018