

SECTION: Instruction

TITLE: Electronic Devices

ADOPTED: 8/21/2012

REVISED: 11/26/2013

Oxford Area School District

6340. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

This policy establishes the parameters for the use of electronic devices.

The Board reserves the right to define and delineate the specific conditions under which student use of electronic devices may be used in the school setting.

The Board defines electronic devices as follows: cellular telephones, smart-phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptops, net books, personal media devices (such as iPods, iPads, Android Tablet and similar devices), and digital readers (such as Nook, Kindle and similar devices) and any other new technology developed with similar capabilities.

Student use of electronic devices is permitted only according to the terms outlined in this policy. The Board permits the use of electronic devices by students as designated by a member of the professional staff or administration during instructional time. The Board further permits electronic devices for nonverbal, non-disruptive use during non-instructional times in locations designated by the administration, or administratively-designated professional staff member to define the educational value and permit or place restrictions on the possession or use of any electronic devices.

Use of electronic devices or photography and/or recording may only occur when authorized by the building principal, district administration, or designated professional staff member for the purposes of participation in educational activities. The Board prohibits all other photography, audio recording, and/or video recording, via electronic devices by students during the instructional day in district buildings, on district property, and when engaged in a school-sponsored activity.

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The Board prohibits students from taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, possessing or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or any other means, including, but not limited to, texting and emailing. Because such violations may constitute a crime under local, state and/or federal law, the district shall report such conduct to local, state and/or federal law enforcement agencies. Administrators shall confiscate devices implicated in this electronic data transfer and immediately contact law enforcement when possession or distribution of such images is discovered or reasonably suspected. Audio and video taping shall be consistent with state/federal laws. Recording anyone without their knowledge and permission is prohibited and may be punishable under federal and state laws.

In addition, the Board prohibits students from accessing a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet on a personal electronic device at any time while on school property or while engaged in school-related activities. The district will provide filtered Internet for student use. Electronic devices capable of accessing the Internet must be registered with the district prior to connecting to the district wireless Internet. Connection to the Internet while present on school property or a school-related activity via anything other than the district's network is a violation of this policy.

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device brought to school; possessed/used during the school day; in/on district buildings, district property, district vehicles or contracted vehicles; during transport to/from school; while attending school-sponsored activities during the school day; and/or any/all school-sponsored activities generally. The district will provide no technical support, troubleshooting, or repair for personal electronic devices.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians, and staff about the district's electronic devices policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook and on the district web site.

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Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior written approval of the building principal or designee, or when use is required for the provision of a free appropriate public education for a student identified under Section 504 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and present in a student's Individualized Education Program or Section 504 plan.

Disciplinary Action

Violations of this policy by a student will result in disciplinary action (including the range of penalties provided for in the discipline code, such as, loss of privileges, confiscation, and referral for expulsion) in accordance with district policy and the student handbook. Use of electronic devices for an unlawful purpose will subject a student to any and all disciplinary measure provided by the discipline code, district policy, or state/federal law.

Use of electronic devices pursuant to this policy is a privilege, not a right, unless otherwise required by legal exception stated above. Abuse of the limited use provision will result in discontinuation of electronic device privileges as determined by the administration.

The Superintendent or designee will only authorize the tracking of any District owned device after the reasonable protocols for recovery of the district owned device are exhausted. Tracking may involve the activation of the equipment location software. Only after the reasonable protocols are exhausted will the tracking of the device be considered or authorized.

- Tracking will occur when student or staff report lost or stolen items.
- Tracking will occur after five (5) days of disenrolled student or separation of staff without property being returned to district.