

Students

Electronic Devices

The Ledyard Board of Education recognizes the need to provide student access to technological resources in support of educational programming and that the use of personal electronic devices has been shown to enhance the learning environment. The Board is also sensitive to the desires of parents who wish, for reasons of safety, to provide their children with electronic devices that can ensure direct communication before and after school hours in times of need. The possession and use of electronic devices on school grounds or at school sponsored activities is a privilege, not a right. This policy sets reasonable controls and limitations on the use of personal electronic devices in order to protect the privacy rights of individuals and to prevent interference with or disruption of the educational program. The Board reserves the right to revoke this privilege if a student fails to adhere to the following guidelines and/or the Board's policies, including but not limited to the acceptable use and student discipline policies.

For the purposes of this policy, the term "**personal electronic devices**" includes, but is not limited to:

- Electronic equipment designed for two-way wireless communications, including, but not limited to, mobile cellular phones, "Walkie Talkies"; portable CB radios and or portable short wave radios.
- A "beeper" or other device that is remotely activated and emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor.
- Portable electronic devices capable of storing, playing, transmitting and/or receiving still images, video and/or audio, including, but not limited to, personal laptops, smartphones, iPods, E-readers, cameras, video or audio tape recorders, radios, CD players, video or audio digital recorders, DVD players, MP3 players and portable electronic gaming devices.

For the purposes of this policy, "**Board Technology Resources**" refers to the Board's computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources used by or otherwise under the control of the school district.

Use of Personal Electronic Devices

- All classroom use of personal electronic devices is at the sole discretion of the teacher. Students will be able to use devices only at the time and in the manner that the teacher permits, and are not to use them in class at other times or for other uses.
- Use of personal electronic devices in non-classroom settings, including, but not limited to, the library media center, cafeteria, any board property or at school sponsored events will be permitted as long as such use does not interfere with the educational process.

Responsibility for Personal Electronic Devices

The Board assumes no responsibility in any circumstances whatsoever for the loss, destruction or theft of any personal electronic device that is brought to school at any time or to any school-sponsored activity, including but not limited to those items confiscated by the staff. Furthermore, the Board shall not be liable for any data plan charges or any other costs associated with the use of private technological devices. Students are advised not to share or loan their privately owned technological devices with other students. Students shall take full responsibility for their device and shall keep it safely stored when not in use. Students are required to take home their personal electronic devices at the end of each school day.

Prohibited uses

Use of any such device for an improper, unethical, or illegal purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Sending any form of harassing, discriminatory, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to Board technology resources;
- Damaging Board technology resources;
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene or contains pornography;
- Cyberbullying;
- Taking pictures without the specific permission of the subject of the picture;
- Using a personal electronic device to violate any school rules, including the unauthorized recording (photographic or audio) of another individual without the permission of the individual or a school staff member; or
- Taking any action prohibited by State, Federal or local law.

Photographic and Audio Devices

Photographic devices, either still image or video as well as audio devices, shall not be used in any unethical or illegal manner, including, but not limited, the following situations:

- In a locker room or restroom;
- In any classroom except under the direct supervision of a teacher;
- To photograph or record another person who has a reasonable expectation of privacy without that person's knowledge and consent (if the photographic subject is under 18 years of age or is mentally or physically impaired, then permission must be obtained from the subject's parent or guardian);
- In a way that would violate copyright law; or
- To harass, intimidate or bully another person or to invade another person's privacy.

Any image or audio recording taken using a photographic or audio recording device may not be published, broadcast, or transmitted to any other person, by any means, without the knowledge and consent of each person appearing in that image, who had a reasonable expectation of privacy at the time the image was recorded, or the person who owns the copyright on the material appearing in that image.

Use of Laser Pointers

A "laser pointer" means a hand-held device that emits a laser light beam and is designed to be used by the operator to indicate, mark or identify a specific position, place, item or object.

Connecticut state law prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from possessing a laser pointer on school grounds or in any public place unless the laser pointer is being used for an educational or other lawful purpose and the user is under the direct supervision of a parent, legal guardian, teacher, employer or other responsible adult.

Therefore, students shall not bring a laser pointer to school and may only use one provided by the school when under the direct supervision of a staff member. Further, no person in possession of a laser pointer shall shine, point or focus the device, directly or indirectly, upon or at another person in a manner that can reasonably be expected to cause harassment, annoyance or fear or injury to such other person.

Disciplinary Action

Misuse of the Board's technology resources and/or the use of personal electronic devices to access or utilize the Board's technology resources in an inappropriate manner or manner inconsistent with this policy will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school and/or referral to the police. In the event that a student violates this Policy or its attendant regulations, a staff member shall confiscate the personal electronic device and turn it in to the office, where it may be retrieved by the student's parent or guardian. Repeat violations of this Policy may result in the student's loss of privileges. Based on the nature of the violation, the student may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, and referral to the police.

Implementation and Notification

Each building Principal shall develop rules to implement and enforce this policy at the building level.

Students and their parents or guardians shall be notified of this policy and any building specific regulations annually and whenever a student enrolls for the first time during the school year.

Related Policies:

5144 – Student Discipline

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j. Student possession and use of telecommunications devices.

53-206e. Limitations on sale and use of laser pointers.

Title 17, United States Code – Copyrights

Title 18, United States Code, Chapter 119 – Wire and Electronic Communications Interception and Interception of Oral Communications

Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 28 U.S.C. §§2510 through 2520

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Ledyard Public Schools

Ledyard, CT