

FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

6440

6440.1 PURPOSE

The Board recognizes the need to provide a positive educational learning environment within safe and secure teaching facilities.

6440.2 DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the district's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior approval of the building principal or designee, or when use is provided for in a student's individualized education program (IEP).

6440.3 Use of Technology

The Board recognizes the need for student use of personal technology devices to accomplish educational objectives. The use of all prohibited devices may be granted by the building principal or district administrator when requested in writing and approved in writing.

6440.4 PROHIBITIONS

6440.4a Laser Pointers

The Board prohibits **possession of** laser pointers, other similar projection devices and attachments by students on school property, on buses and other vehicles provided by the district, and at school sponsored activities. (24 P.S. Sec.510, 1317.1)

6440.4b Pagers / Beepers

The Board prohibits **possession of** paging devices/beepers by students on school property, on buses and other vehicles provided by the district, and at school-sponsored activities. (24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1317.1)

With prior administrative approval, the telephone paging device/beeper prohibition shall not apply in the following cases: (24 P.S. 1371.1)

1. A Student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.

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ELECTRONIC DEVICES (Con't)

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2. A student who has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.

- 6440.4c     Electronic Devices and Personal Communication Devices  
The Board prohibits **use of** an Electronic Device by students during the school day in district buildings, on district property, and while students are attending school-sponsored activities.
- 6440.4d     Cameras and recording devices  
The Board prohibits **use of any Electronic Device** that has the capability to capture audio and/or pictures (still or video) During the School Day in district buildings, on district property and while students are engaged in school-sponsored activities. (18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5703). A student may use such a device in a school sponsored activity only with the express permission of school personnel directing the activity; use of an Electronic Device in this circumstance must comply with Pennsylvania law and such other rules or guidelines as may established by the school personnel directing the activity, Notwithstanding the above, a spectator at an athletic event may use an Electronic Device to capture audio and/or pictures (still or video) provided that its use otherwise complies with Pennsylvania law and is not used in a surreptitious manner .
- 6440.4e     Laptop Computers / Personal Digital Assistants  
Laptop computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) brought to school shall be restricted to classroom, school-sponsored or instructional-related activities. Students shall comply with the guidelines set by the classroom teacher or school officials for the educational use of laptop computers and PDA.
- 6440.4f     In addition, the Board prohibits **possession and use** by students of any device that provides for a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.
- 6440.5     The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any Electronic Device brought to school by a student.

- 6440.6 Violations  
Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the Electronic Device.
- Parents of students shall be notified of confiscated devices requiring password access. Failure of students and/or parents providing access codes will result in the device being turned over to the local/state police for evaluation...
- The confiscated device may not be returned until a conference has been held with a parent/guardian.
- 6440.7 Exceptions  
Students may possess communication devices or cellular telephone to communicate with parents/guardians during non-school hours, while returning from a school trip, or after school events.
- 6440.8 Definitions  
“During the School Day” includes all time during which the school has the right to exercise authority as to conduct and behavior of a student, as is provided by Section 1317 of the School Code.
- “Electronic Device” means any apparatus, whether powered directly or indirectly by battery or electrical current, that performs any of the following functions, without limitation:
- Displaying, receiving, recording, sending and/or storing electronic data in any format or medium;
  - Sending and/or receiving voice;
  - Capturing and/or displaying voice and/or pictures (still or video);
  - or
  - Projecting a point or beam of non-incandescent light.
- The term is intended to be broadly inclusive; without limiting the scope of this definition, includes any cellphone, smartphone, personal computer, laptop computer, personal digital assistant, pager, voice recorder, data recorder, DVD player and/or recorder, CD player and/or recorder, video camera, camcorder, camera, laser, laser pointer or other device that emits a laser beam; the term also includes any accessory or implement used with an electronic device, whether or not said object comes in actual contact with the device.