

Board Policy 4318: Wireless Communication and Electronic Devices

It is unlawful to intentionally point a laser device at the head or face of another person. Students may not possess and/or use in school or on school property any laser pointer or similar device. Cellular telephones, pagers, beepers, fire radios, and other personal electronic devices are prohibited at the elementary level. Cellular telephones, pagers, beepers, fire radios, and other personal electronic devices are prohibited at the middle and high school levels during the instructional day. The use or possession of cellular telephones and other PCDs are admissible before and after the school day. Devices could be confiscated if found out or in use, including text messaging or taking pictures, during the instructional day. Disciplinary action in this area shall be handled by the local school administration, in accordance with their school rules (Policy Code #3320 – *Technology in the Education Program*). Any violation of this Policy shall be a violation of the Student Conduct/Discipline Code and/or Student Conduct on School Buses Code.

CELL PHONES AND WIRELESS COMMUNICATION (G.S. 115C-391 and G.S. 115C-36) The Board of Education regards the possession of a wireless communication and/or electronic device as a privilege. The use of these devices can also be a disruption to the instructional process and create a safety hazard.

Students and parents assume the risk of loss when an electronic device is brought onto school grounds for any reason. The school system is not responsible for the loss of, theft of or damage to any wireless communication and/or electronic device, including any such device confiscated by school personnel. Nothing in this policy shall prevent a principal from immediately banning from school the possession of any item or device when used in the violation of a specific provision of the code of student conduct for which a more stringent punishment is warranted.

No elementary student (Pre-K through 5th grade) shall have in their possession on school property any wireless communication and/or electronic device, including but not limited to cell phones, laser pointers, paging devices, two-way radios, iPods, any device possessing photographic capabilities, CD/MP3 players, electronic games, PDA, Bluetooth device, or other communication and/or electronic devices not specified capable of the same or similar functions.

Except as provided below, no high school (9th through 12th grade) or middle school student (6th through 8th grade) shall use or have in view during the instructional day any wireless communication and/or electronic device, including but not limited to cell phones, laser pointers, paging devices, two-way radios, iPods, any device possessing photographic capabilities, CD/MP3 players, electronic games, PDA, Bluetooth device, or other communication and/or electronic devices not specified capable of the same or similar functions. Devices in lockers must be in the “off” position. All devices shall be stored in such a manner as to make them inaccessible during the instructional day.

Each principal will adopt rules on the possession and use of wireless communication and/or electronic devices on regular school bus routes. The use of such devices on activity buses is at the discretion of the sponsor/coach in charge of the activity bus.

With prior approval from the principal, elementary, middle, and high school teachers may use and/or lead students in the use of electronic and wireless devices as an instructional tool during the instructional day. Any electronic communications between staff and students should be school related.

School administrators have the right to conduct searches of students upon reasonable suspicion to ensure the enforcement of this Policy. Any school staff member witnessing a violation of this Policy at his/her school shall report it to a school administrator immediately.

An “offense” shall occur each time this Policy is violated regardless of the specific device or devices involved. However, the possession of multiple devices at one time shall be regarded as one offense.

POSSESSION OF A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION AND/OR ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING A TEST OR QUIZ

In addition to the above consequences, a grade of zero will be assigned for the test or quiz. Any student who has a visible cell phone or one that rings during a test will be considered cheating on that test. In addition, any student who has a visible cell phone or one that rings during a test will go to the second offense outlined in this section, even if the student has no prior history of being caught with a cell phone.

Any student not following the directives of a school employee during the confiscation of any device is subject to a minimum three-day out-of-school suspension.

The use of a wireless communication/electronic device in a criminal act will result in prosecution.