

STUDENT USE OF HANDHELD TECHNOLOGY DEVICES, CELLULAR TELEPHONES, PAGERS, AND OTHER DEVICES

The Waterloo Community School District Board of Educators recognizes the need to provide access to technological resources.

For the purposes of this policy, “Handheld Technology Devices” is defined to include portable two-way telecommunications devices including, but not limited to, cellular telephones (including phones with cameras), laptops, MP3 players, beepers, as well as any new technology developed for similar purposes.

The School Board extends to High School students only, the privilege to possess, display and use Handheld Technology Devices during passing time between classes, during meal times, and before or after school, provided such Handheld Technology Devices are not displayed, activated or used during class time, unless the classroom teacher allows the use of Handheld Technology Devices for educational purposes or to communicate with a student’s parent or guardian. [At the Elementary and Middle School levels, use of all electronic devices is prohibited.] Classroom teachers are not authorized to give permission for students to use Handheld Technology Devices to communicate during class time with students outside of the teacher’s class. Except as permitted by the classroom teacher, all such devices must be turned off and in a locker, backpack, pocket, or similar enclosure during class time. Exceptions will be made for students with specific needs that require such devices under a “504 Plan,” pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; as per their Individual Education Plan “IEP”; and during a medical or security emergency, if a supervising school official is not in communication with emergency responders, or the student is unaware that a supervising school official is in communication with emergency responders. Additionally, exceptions may be made to allow secondary students to use a compatible personal laptop or chromebook computer in lieu of the chromebook issued by the Waterloo Community School District at the discretion of school administration.

The school district will not be responsible for financial charges, loss, damage, destruction, or theft of any electronic device brought to school including during times of confiscation.

Student use of personal Handheld Technology Devices for permitted educational purposes or to communicate with school staff or other students is optional.

ADOPTED: 2/28/11
6/11/18

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