

Policy JICJ

Unauthorized Communication Devices

Board Approved: August 18, 2025

A. Purpose

Use of personal communication devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, other communication devices, smartwatches, etc.) for nonacademic means often leads to disruptions in the learning environment for both individual learners and the classroom.

For the purposes of this policy, a personal communication device is defined as any non-district provided internet/ cellular-capable device that can support voice or video calls, texts, emails, or instant messages. Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to: cellphones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches. For ease of reference, devices provided by the district for instructional use shall be referred to as "district-owned" or "district-provided" devices.

B. Restrictions

Learner use of personal communication devices is **strictly prohibited** from the time designated in the school's handbook to start the academic school day until the dismissal time to end the academic school day (referred to as "the school day"). The school day includes lunch periods, passing time, and recesses. Learners participating in Educational Learning Opportunities, Career & Technical Education courses offsite, extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, field trips or other activities outside of the school day shall abide by the rules and consequences established for personal communication devices set by the principal. However, **in no event** shall personal communication devices (or any other device with photographic or recording capabilities) be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other location where such use could violate another person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

If digital devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom, the District is responsible for providing District-owned devices.

While it is best practice that these devices are not brought to school, if these devices are brought to school, they shall be kept with the power turned off in a learner's assigned locker, backpack, or handbag. The District will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any electronic communication device brought to the school.

C. Exceptions

Learners with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or disabilities that require a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or a multilingual learner with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall be exempt from this policy. Additionally, the superintendent or their designee may approve additional exceptions on a case-by-case basis or through an administrative decision recorded in the learner handbook, with respect to learner medical, disability, or language proficiency needs.

D. Consequences and Violations

Learners are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any learner or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review a learner's

personal electronic device subject to the limitations of RSA 189:70, if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a learner has violated board policies, regulations, school rules, or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal electronic device.

Consequences for violations of this policy will be pursuant to the learner Code of Conduct.

E. Review

The Superintendent shall annually review policy in collaboration with parent(s) and teachers with a report and recommendations for policy changes to be delivered to the Board no later than the end of each school year.

F. Dissemination

The Superintendent shall ensure that information regarding the prohibition against using personal communication devices during the school day is included in all learner handbooks, and included in "beginning of school year" materials provided to parents/guardians.

District Policy History:

First reading: July 21, 2025

Second reading: August 4, 2025

Third reading/adopted: August 18, 2025

District revision history: Adopted: June 6, 2005, Revised August 5, 2024

NH Statutes

Student

RSA 189:68-a

RSA 189:70

RSA 644:21

Description

Student [Privacy](#)

Student [Online Personal Information](#)

[Educational Institution Policies on Social Media](#)

[Searches of Portable Electronic Devices](#)