

Personal Computer and Mobile Device Policy

The Board of Education recognizes that there are personal electronic devices that have educational applications including, but not limited to, tablets, e-readers, calculators, voice recorders, digital cameras and music listening devices. In some instances a “smart phone” may include applications that permit these functions.

The Pearl River School District provides students and teachers with the computing resources needed to complete technology-related projects. Students and teachers who choose to bring a computer or mobile device of their own to school to use in class or make it more convenient to work on a project both in school and outside of school must comply with the following policy.

Staff and Student Responsibilities

Students and staff agree to follow the District’s Acceptable Use Policy, a copy of which is attached to this Policy (hereinafter referred to as the “AUP”) when using their own computers and mobile devices in school buildings and on district property. Staff, students, and other users of their own computers and mobile devices agree to abide by all regulations and expectations for appropriate use applying to District technology including the following:

- Use of any device and the District computer network must be in support of education and research.
- Students are permitted to use their own computers and mobile devices only if a signed District AUP and related parental permissions are on record.
- Students are permitted to use personal devices only as instructed by and during times when supervised by District staff.
- Students must use the District’s filtered wireless network while working online in school. Students with devices having 3G or 4G access will be required to use only the school’s wireless network. This is to ensure required content protection (CIPA).
- Personal devices may not be used to record, transmit or publish images or video record at school, in classrooms where instruction takes place, without a teacher’s permission and the permission of all students’ parents, teachers and staff in the photo or video. Uses outside of the classroom must be authorized by a building administrator.
- **School personnel will not provide technical support for student devices.**
- **Devices must be charged prior to being brought to school. The device is required to run on its own battery power while at school. Charging stations or access will not be available during the school day.**
- **Personal devices are brought to school at the students’ and parents’ own risk. The school assumes no responsibility for student devices. Students assume all responsibility for securing personal devices.**
- Use of the network to engage in cyberbullying, as defined in New York State Education Law Section 11(8) and the District’s Code of Conduct, is prohibited.

District Responsibility

- The District will use technology protection measures (Internet filters) to help prevent users from accessing inappropriate information on the Internet in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No.106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)]. In accordance with the CIPA legislation, filtering may be disabled by staff for purposes of bona fide research.

- The District reserves the right to log Internet and e-mail use and to monitor file server utilization by users of the District network.
- The District reserves the right to inspect a personal device should there be reason to believe that a user has violated the District Acceptable Use Policy.
- Violators of the acceptable use regulations described above risk losing computer privileges on a temporary or permanent basis, suffering disciplinary action, and facing possible prosecution for violation of local, state and federal laws.

Cellular Telephones

The Board acknowledges that cellular phones and 2-way communication systems can be a positive means to facilitate communication; however, the display and/or use of such devices can cause disruption to the educational process.

Therefore, to prevent such disruption, the display and/or use by students of cellular phones (including “smart phones”) and 2-way communication systems and/or other electronic devices shall be prohibited from the time students arrive at school until the end of the regular school day, unless specifically permitted to be used by a teacher or administrator. Such devices must be turned off and stored out of sight during this time period. The district is not responsible for stolen, lost or damaged personal electronic devices.

In emergency situations, exceptions to the prohibition of the use of cellular phones and 2-way communication systems may be granted by teachers or administrators.

Misuse of any of these electronic devices will result in its confiscation until the end of the school day, as outlined in the code of conduct. Some uses of personal electronic devices may constitute a violation of the school district code of conduct and in some instances, the law. The school district will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Cellular Telephones and Testing

In order to ensure the integrity of testing, in accordance with state guidelines, students are not allowed to bring cell phones or other electronic devices into classrooms or other exam locations during testing.

Test proctors, monitors and school officials shall have the right to collect cell phones and other prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test and to hold them for the duration of the test taking time. Admission to the test will be prohibited to any student who has a cell phone or other electronic device in their possession and does not relinquish it.

Students with individualized education plans (IEPs), 504 Plans, or documentation from a medical practitioner that specifically requires the use of an electronic device may do so as specified.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will work collaboratively with district and building administrators to plan for the implementation of this policy at the elementary, middle school and high school levels

Adopted: May 14, 2014

