

POLICY

ELECTRONIC PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES (EPCD)

Students in grades 5-8 may possess, display and use Electronic Portable Communication Devices only as set forth in this policy and accompanying administrative regulations.

Electronic Portable Communication Devices, or “EPCD”s, are defined as any portable two-way telecommunication devices, including but not limited to cellular telephones, walkie-talkies, personal digital assistants (PDAs), iPods, iPads, smart tablets, Mp3 and CD players, and any other hand held computing devices (when such is being used as a communication device). This definition will also include any new technology developed for similar purposes. “Use” shall be defined for the purpose of this policy as having or placing the device in the “ON” position.

To avoid disruption of the instructional process, except as provided below, students shall not display, use, activate or permit “EPCD” to be activated in any school building during the instructional day. The instructional day includes, but is not limited to, study halls, lunch/recess breaks, class changes, and any other structured or non-structured instructional activity, on or off school grounds, that occurs during the normal school day. Students are responsible to ensure that their “ECPD”s are turned off and out of sight.

“ECPD”s may be used during the school day only if the device is provided in the student’s IEP, or permission is granted by the student’s teacher.

“ECPD”s may be activated, displayed or used before or after the end of the instructional day or at after school activities by students in grades 5-8 provided they do not interfere with any before or after school activity and their use conforms to the directives of the school administration and/or staff member(s) overseeing such activity. Evidence of unlawful or disruptive use will result in disciplinary action according to the discipline guidelines as specified in the school district’s Parent/Student Handbook and/or reports to local law enforcement authorities. In addition, under no circumstances should a student use his/her “ECPD” in a way that violates the acceptable use policy or the harassment, intimidation and bullying policy. Disciplinary action shall be commensurate to the student’s infraction of the board’s policies. Students shall be mindful of the disruptive effect to others when making or receiving calls/messages on “ECPD”s during a before or after school activity (i.e. indoor/outdoor sporting event, club meetings, etc.) and endeavor to use reasonable efforts to minimize inconvenience and discourtesy to others.

“ECPD”s may be carried on Board of Education (BOE) leased/rented school bus or vehicle by students in grades 5-8 while they are being transported to/from school or a school sponsored activity. While the “ECPD”s may be carried, they must be concealed in a backpack, purse/pocketbook, or other container. The use, activation or display of any such “ECPD” on a bus is prohibited without the consent of the staff member(s) in charge of the activity/experience. Evidence of unlawful or unauthorized use will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the school district’s Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. The Medford Lakes Board of Education (MLBOE) will assume no responsibility in any circumstance for the loss, destruction, damage or theft of the “ECPD” or for any communication bill associated with the authorized or unauthorized use of said devices. Students who bring their privately owned “ECPD”s do so at their own risk and will be responsible for locating such lost/stolen items. While the school district assumes no responsibility for stolen devices, if a student has reason to believe his/her device has been stolen, it should be reported to the building principal in the same manner as the theft of any other allegedly stolen article. It will be investigated accordingly.

ELECTRONIC PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES (EPCD) (con't)

Reviewed: August 17, 2016

Adopted: September 21, 2016

Legal References: Use legal reference sheet.

Cross References:

Key Words

Monitored

 X **Mandated**

 X **Other Reasons**

Legal References

Legal References

- N.J.S.A. 2C:33-19 Prohibition of possession of remotely activated paging device
- 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
- 18A:36-19.2 Search of student lockers
- 18A:37-1 Authority over students
- 18A:37-2 Suspension and expulsion