



Book	Policy Manual
Section	5000 Students
Title	PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES
Code	po5136
Status	Active
Adopted	August 12, 2024

5136 - **PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

The School Board believes that attendance at school should occupy a student's full attention and that the educational process should be safe and free from distraction and disruption.

Personal communication devices (PCDs) as used in this policy are defined in Bylaw 0100 - Definitions.

Students are prohibited from using a PCD during instructional time except that:

- A. a teacher may allow a student to use a PCD for educational purposes during instructional time;
- B. a student may use a PCD to manage the student's health care or in the event of an emergency; or
- C. a student may use a PCD if the use of a PCD is included in the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan.

Students otherwise are permitted to use PCDs in school, before and after school hours, on School Corporation property, during their lunch break, between classes, during after-school activities (e.g., extra-curricular activities), and at school-related functions as long as they do not create a distraction, disruption or otherwise interfere with the educational environment. Use of a PCD on Corporation property that results in a distraction, disruption or otherwise interferes with the educational environment shall not be tolerated and may result in the loss of use of the PCD while on Corporation property.

Students may use PCDs while riding to and from school on a Corporation bus or other Corporation vehicle, or on a Corporation bus or other Corporation vehicle during school-sponsored activities. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment shall not be tolerated and may result in the loss of use of the PCD while on a Corporation bus or other Corporation vehicle.

Students are prohibited from using PCDs, including but not limited to those with cameras (i.e., devices that take still or motion pictures, whether in a digital or other format), in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include but are not limited to gymnasiums, locker rooms, shower facilities, restrooms/bathrooms, swimming pools, and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage of undress. The Superintendent and building principals are authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where use of a PCD is absolutely prohibited. If a student needs to use a PCD to manage the student's health care or in the event of an emergency, the student should go to an area where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy does not exist, except where the emergency prevents the student from leaving the area.

Except as authorized by a teacher or administrator, students are prohibited from using PCDs to capture, record and/or transmit the words or sounds (i.e., audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person during the school day. Using a PCD to capture, record and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without proper consent is not permitted.

Students who violate this policy may have their PCD confiscated and held until the end of the school day and/or a parent/guardian picks it up, and may be directed to delete the audio and/or picture/video file. If the violation involves potentially illegal activity, the confiscated-PCD may be turned over to law enforcement.

Students shall not use a PCD in any way that reasonably might create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior. In particular, students are prohibited from using PCDs to: 1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation/transgender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or political beliefs; and 2) engage in "sexting" - i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, e-mails or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions shall be reported to local law enforcement and the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), as required by law.

Students also are prohibited from using a PCD to capture, record, and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using PCDs to receive such information.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the PCD.

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Legal I.C. 20-26-5-40.7

Cross References po0100 - DEFINITIONS
po5517.01 - BULLYING
po5771 - SEARCH AND SEIZURE
po7540.03 - STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

Last Modified by Brittany Wiggins on August 19, 2024