



Loving Municipal Schools

Loving Middle School Electronic Device/Cell Phone Policy

ELECTRONIC DEVICE/CELL PHONE POLICY

The Board believes that students need a safe, positive and productive learning environment free from disruptions, distractions and threats. The Board has determined that personal electronic devices have created a disruption to the learning environment, distracted students from the primary purpose of education and have been used to threaten other students. Accordingly, it is the **policy** of the Board to forbid the possession, custody and use of personal electronic devices by students on school property during the school day. However, coaches and sponsors in charge of extra-curricular activities or school trips shall have the discretion to approve the possession and use of personal electronic devices during such school activities and school trips.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. *Personal electronic device* is an electronic device that emits an audible or visual signal, displays a message, or otherwise summons the possessor, including, but not limited to, cellular telephones, paging devices, electronic e-mailing devices, radios, tape players, CD players, DVD players, video cameras, iPods or other MP3 players, laser pointers, portable video game players personal digital assistants (PDA's), cameras, or any device that provides a wireless connection to the Internet other than school assigned laptop computers.
2. *School day* means the normal hours of operation of the school.
3. *Extra-curricular activity* means any school-sponsored activity, including school-sponsored sports, which is directed and supervised by a school employee, coach or sponsor.
4. *School trip* means any school-sponsored trip on school-owned vehicles for the purpose of transporting students to a school-sponsored activity away from the school site, which is directed and supervised by a school employee, coach or sponsor.

Prohibition

It is the **policy** of the Board that no student shall bring *personal electronic devices* to a school, nor carry or keep any *personal electronic device* on school property or while attending or participating in any school activity, including during transportation to or from such activity.

Exceptions

1. Coaches and sponsors of extra-curricular activities shall have the discretion to allow the possession and use *personal electronic devices* while participating in extra-curricular activities or during school-sponsored trips.
2. Students who discover they have inadvertently brought a *personal electronic device* to school shall have the option to self-report the incident to the building administrator to have the *personal electronic device* held in the office for the student until the end of the day. A student who inadvertently brings a *personal electronic device* to school and fails to self-report the incident, shall be subject to discipline pursuant to the policy under the Districts Discipline Matrix.

Loss of and Damage to Personal Electronic Devices

The District shall not be liable or responsible for the loss or damage to any *personal electronic device* at school or at school-sponsored activities.

Penalties for Violations

School employees with student supervisory responsibilities are authorized to confiscate *personal electronic devices* from students. All *electronic devices* will be returned only to the parent or legal guardian and student(s) in violation shall be subject to discipline pursuant to the policy under the Districts Discipline Matrix.

Use of Personal Electronic Devices in Other Incidents of Misconduct

Any student who uses a *personal electronic device* in conjunction with violation of any other student rules will be subject to the discipline for that violation *and* at the discretion of the building administrator, the building administrator may confiscate the *personal electronic device* for up to five (5) days and returned to the student's parent/guardian at a meeting with the building administrator. For example:

1. If a student uses a **cell phone** to threaten, bully, or sexually harass a student, the student will be subject to punishment under the District's **policies** on threat, bullying, or sexual harassment, respectively, and the **cell phone** may be confiscated, at the discretion of the building administrator, for up to five (5) days.
2. If a student uses a **cell phone** to cheat on a test, the student will be subject to punishment under the District's **policies** for cheating and the **cell phone** may be confiscated for up to five (5) day at the discretion of the building principal.