

*[This policy should be posted in all buildings and must be posted prominently on the School's publicly accessible web site.]*

Policy No. 4440

**Use of Electronic Communications Devices and Cameras**

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Governing Authority has determined the use of electronic communications devices (ECDs) (most specifically cellular phones) by students during school hours should be limited.

"Electronic communications device" (ECD) is defined in Ohio law to mean any device that is powered by batteries or electricity and that is capable of receiving, transmitting, or receiving and transmitting communications between two or more persons or a communication from or to a person. Examples of ECDs include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, smart phones and tablets, smart watches, video games, walkie-talkies, pagers, and other similar electronic devices. "Camera devices" may also be ECDs, and include, but are not limited to, digital cameras, cellular phones with cameras, camcorders, and other imaging devices.

The objective of this policy is to strengthen the School's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

Rule.

***Students are prohibited from using ECDs during school hours in accordance with this policy.***

ECDs may be turned on and used before the school day begins and after the regular school day ends.

Students may use cell phones or other ECDs in accordance with their written IEPs or Section 504 plans, or to monitor or address a health concern.

[X] Students may use ECDs in emergency situations that present an imminent physical danger.

At no time shall ECDs or camera devices be used in a manner disruptive to the instructional process, disruptive to the School's academic mission, or inconsistent with Policy No. 4430, Internet and Technology Use, Policy No. 4103, Harassment, and Policy No. 4104, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying.

Students shall keep their ECDs and camera devices in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the School, at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

User Liability.

The School and its employees are not responsible for theft, loss, damage, or destruction of ECDs and camera devices brought on to school property. Students are solely responsible for devices they bring on school property.

Discipline.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action and the student may lose his/her privilege to bring the ECD onto school property and/or have his/her device confiscated. If confiscated, the student shall cooperate in surrendering the ECD, and the device will only be returned to the student's parent or guardian. While confiscated, the School may further inspect the MED if it reasonably believes the student has violated other policies in accordance with Policy 4490, Search and Seizure.

A student disciplined for harassment, intimidation, or bullying while using an ECD (pursuant to the Code of Conduct and/or Policy Nos. 4103, Harassment, and 4104, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) will lose his/her privilege to bring the ECD onto School property *[ ] for \_\_\_ days [ ] for 20 days [ ] for the remainder of the school year.*

*Ohio: R.C. 3313.753*

*Cross Reference: Policy No. 4103, Harassment; Policy No. 4103, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying; Policy No. 4430, Internet & Technology Acceptable Use.*