

Timberlane Regional School District	Policy Code: JICJ
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UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A. Purpose

The District is committed to providing students with a learning environment free from disruptions. Use of personal communication devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, other communication devices, smartwatches, etc.) for nonacademic means often leads to disruptions in the learning environment for both individual students and the classroom.

For the purposes of this policy, a personal communication device is defined as any non-district provided internet/ cellular-capable device that can support voice or video calls, texts, emails, or instant messages. Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to: cellphones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches. For ease of reference, devices provided by the district for instructional use shall be referred to as "district-owned" or "district-provided" devices.

B. Restrictions

Student use of personal communication devices is **strictly prohibited** from when the first bell rings to start instructional time until the dismissal bell rings to end the academic school day (referred to as "the school day"). The school day includes lunch periods, passing time, and recesses.

Students participating in extracurricular activities, off-campus field trips, co-curricular activities, and/or other activities outside of the school day shall abide by the rules and consequences established for personal communication devices set by the coach, instructor, sponsor or other designated supervisor for the activity. However, **in no event** shall personal communication devices (or any other device with photographic or recording capabilities) be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other location where such use could violate another person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

If digital devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom, the District is responsible for providing District-owned devices.

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While it is best practice that these devices are not brought to school, if these devices are brought to school, they shall be kept with the power turned off in the area designated by the school. The District and District personnel will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any electronic communication device brought to the school.

C. Exceptions

Students with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or disabilities that require a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or a multilingual student with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall not be prohibited from using personal communication devices to address identified needs. Additionally, the superintendent or their designee may approve additional exceptions on a case-by-case basis or through an administrative decision recorded in the student handbook, with respect to student medical, disability, or language proficiency needs.

D. Consequences and Violations

Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review a student's personal electronic device subject to the limitations of RSA 189:70, if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has violated board policies, regulations, school rules, or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal electronic device.

Consequences for violations of this policy will be pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.

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Additionally:

1. First Infraction: Student will be directed to turn off their personal communication device and place the device in the area designated by the school. A disciplinary referral will be submitted to administration under the Code of Conduct. The administrator will issue a written warning to the student and the parent or guardian.
2. Second Infraction: Student will be directed to turn off their personal communication device and place the device in the area designated by the school. A disciplinary referral will be submitted to administration under the Code of Conduct. Repeated violations of school policy will include graduated consequences, ranging from detention to suspension. The parent / guardian will be notified of the infraction.
3. Third and Subsequent Infractions: Student will be directed to turn off their personal communication device and place the device in the area designated by the school. A disciplinary referral will be submitted to administration under the Code of Conduct. The administrator will contact the student’s parent or guardian to develop a plan to address the ongoing infraction of state law and School Board policy. Repeated violations of school policy will include graduated consequences, ranging from detention to suspension.

E. Review

The Superintendent shall annually review policy in collaboration with parents and teachers with a report and recommendations for policy changes to be delivered to the Board no later than April 1st of each school year.

F. Dissemination

The Superintendent shall ensure that information regarding the prohibition against using personal communication devices during the school day is included in all student handbooks, and included in "beginning of school year" materials provided to parents/guardians.

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References:

RSA 198-68, 198:68-a

RSA 189:70

RSA 644:21