

The board has a responsibility to provide for orderly schools and classrooms that are conducive to learning. Because laser pointers and electronic communication devices can disrupt the orderly environment, the board restricts their use on school grounds.

**A. PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR**

Students are prohibited from possessing a personal laser pointer on school campuses unless authorized by their teacher for instructional purposes.

Except as otherwise permitted under this policy, students shall not use, display, activate or have in the “on” position on school property during the instructional day any cameras, music players or electronic communication devices, including, but not necessarily limited to, cellular telephones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios and similar devices.

School officials may authorize individual students to use such devices when there appears to be a compelling need for such communication. School officials may authorize individual students to use such devices for instructional purposes provided students are supervised during the use. Students are prohibited from making unauthorized photographic, video or audio recordings.

Although use generally is permitted before and after school, use of cellular phones and other wireless communication devices may be prohibited on school buses when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the buses. In addition, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs may be prohibited from using wireless communication devices during such programs.

**B. CONSEQUENCES**

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of these devices. However, when a student is in violation of this policy, the device shall immediately be confiscated by school personnel. Communication devices that are confiscated by school personnel shall be returned only to the student’s parent. Carteret County Public Schools shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss or damage of a cell phone or any other communication device.

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

The following factors should be considered when determining appropriate consequences:

1. whether the wireless communication device was used (a) to reproduce images of tests, obtain unauthorized access to school information or assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; (b) to bully or harass other students; (c) to send illicit text messages; (d) to take and/or send illicit photographs; or (e) in any other manner that would make more severe disciplinary consequences appropriate; and
2. whether a laser pointer was used in a way that caused or reasonably could have caused physical harm.

**C. SEARCH OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

In accordance with policy 4342, Student Searches, a student's wireless communication device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, board policy, the Code of Student Conduct or a school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -390.2

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315), Student Searches (policy 4342)

Adopted: August 18, 2008

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