

Northridge Electronic Devices Policy

Scope

Electronic devices have become a common means of communication and information access in today's society. However, these devices have the potential of disrupting the orderly operation of school. Northridge High School has therefore created this policy to govern the possession and use of electronic devices on school premises, during school hours, at school sponsored activities, and on school transportation.

Definition

For purposes of this policy ***“Electronic Device”*** means a privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic handheld equipment that includes, but is not limited to, existing and emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies (cell phones, smartphones, walkie-talkies, pagers, etc.), portable internet devices (mobile managers, mobile messengers, BlackBerry™ handset, etc.), Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) (Palm organizers, pocket PCs, etc.), handheld entertainment systems (video games, CD players, compact DVD players, MP3 players, iPods ©, Walkman™ devices, etc.), and any other convergent communication technologies that do any number of the previously mentioned functions. ***“Electronic Device”*** also includes any current or emerging wireless handheld technologies or portable information technology systems that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting/receiving/storing, etc.

Possession and Use of Electronic Devices

Students may possess and use electronic devices at school subject to the following: Students may carry or possess electronic devices at school and school-sponsored activities. Electronic devices must be turned **off**, not set to vibrate, and kept out of sight during class time. At no time may electronic devices be used in restrooms or locker rooms. Students may use electronic devices appropriately before school, after school, and during breaks.

Prohibitions

Electronic devices shall not be used in a way that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates school-related individuals, including students, employees, and visitors; or violates local, state, or federal law. This includes the intent to annoy, alarm, intimidate, offend, abuse, threaten, harass, frighten, or disrupt the electronic communication of another. A person is guilty of voyeurism that intentionally uses any recording device that is concealed or disguised to secretly or surreptitiously record or view electronically any portion of an individual's body for which the individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy. It is also prohibited for any individual to record, display or forward any material that could be considered pornographic, lewd or inappropriate in a high school setting. Electronic devices may not be used during Utah Performance Assessment System for Students assessments unless specifically allowed by law, student IEP, or assessment directions.

Confiscation

If a student violates this policy, his/her electronic device may be confiscated. When an employee confiscates an electronic device under this policy, he/she shall take reasonable measures to label and secure the device or turn the device over to a school administrator as soon as the employee's duties permit. The electronic device will be released/returned to the student's parent or guardian after the student has complied with any other disciplinary consequence that is imposed.

Disciplinary Actions

Violation of this policy can result in discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion, and notification of law enforcement authorities. A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from possession of an electronic device at school or school-related events.

1st confiscation: student may pick up electronic device at the end of the school day from the teacher or administrator.

2nd confiscation: parent may pick up electronic device at the end of the school day from the teacher or administrator.

3rd confiscation: parent may pick up electronic device at the end of the next school day from the administrator.

4th confiscation: student will lose privilege to have any electronic device at school.

Security of devices

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of electronic devices brought to school. The school shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or unauthorized calls made with an electronic device. If devices are loaned to or borrowed and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).

Reporting

Individuals wishing to report a violation of this policy should contact a school administrator.

Prohibitions on audio or camera recording

Camera or audio recording functions of electronic devices may pose threats to the personal privacy of individuals, used to exploit personal information, and/or compromise the integrity of educational programs. Accordingly, the use of the audio recording or camera functions of electronic devices is strictly prohibited on school premises at all times.

Exceptions

With prior approval of the administration, the above prohibitions may be relaxed under the following circumstances:

- a. the use is specifically required to implement a student's current and valid IEP
- b. the use is at the direction of a teacher for educational purposes
- c. the use is determined by the administration to be necessary for other special circumstances, health-related reasons, or emergency.