

STUDENT USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board recognizes that many students possess electronic devices including those with communication capabilities. The purpose of this policy is to regulate student the use of cell phones and other electronic devices in order to provide a school environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.

The Board believes that students learn most effectively when classrooms are free of unnecessary disruptions. Devices that may interrupt or distract the teacher and students have no place in the classroom and use of such devices is prohibited unless for educational purposes expressly permitted or assigned by the classroom teacher. Examples of such devices include but are not limited to: cell phones, camera phones, iPhones, iPods, personal digital assistants, pagers, electronic games, handheld computers, head phones, ear buds, and other electronic devices with similar capabilities. The principal may grant an exception to this policy for medical or emergency reasons.

M.S.A.D. #8 shall not be responsible for the loss, theft, or damage to cell phones or other electronic devices that students bring with them to school or school activities or use on school transportation.

Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited at all times during the school day except at lunch time after the student has obtained his/her lunch. As authorized by the school staff, exceptions may be made when students are on buses, during field trips, and at extracurricular activities.

The use of headphones and ear buds are expressly forbidden in hallways and other common areas. Teachers may use discretion as to when they may be used within their classrooms. However, in all instances, the use should have an educational purpose.

The following guidelines apply to use of electronic devices at any time on school property or at any school event:

- A. Electronic devices may not be used to harass, intimidate or bully another person.
- B. Electronic devices may not be used to engage in conduct that constitutes academic dishonesty.
- C. Camera devices and/or audio recording devices, including laptops, may not be used to photograph or record any person in a bathroom, locker room or other place where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. In other parts of the school, students are required to obtain permission before photographing or recording any individual.

- D. Electronic devices may not be used in any manner that violates law, School Committee policies or student conduct rules.

Page 1 of 2

NEPN/NSBA Code: JICJ

When a student violates this policy, the school may take any or all of the following actions, depending upon the circumstances and nature of the violation:

- A. The teacher may give a warning to student to put the electronic device away.
- B. The teacher or principal/designee may confiscate the device and return in to the student at the end of the school day.
- C. The principal/designee may confiscate the device and release it only to the student's parent/guardian. At the discretion of the principal/designee, the student may be prohibited from possessing a personal electronic device on school property or at any school-sponsored activity for a period of time.
- D. The student will be subject to disciplinary consequences up to and including expulsion. Law enforcement authorities will be contacted when required or as deemed appropriate.

Adopted: 3/19/2014

Revised: _____