

STUDENT USE OF TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION AND/OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Appleton Area School District recognizes the legitimate safety purpose that students and parents have in providing students with cellular phones and other two-way communication devices. The Appleton Area School District also recognizes the legitimate education right that students have to learn and engage in school activities without distraction or disruption from the use of two-way devices or other personal electronic equipment.

During the school day (7:00 am–4:00 pm), students are prohibited from using cellular phones, electronic paging, two-way communication, or gaming devices while in school buildings or attending school activities. Students who are in possession of electronic paging, two-way communication, or personal electronic devices must store the equipment in their locker or vehicle during the school day, or with their personal belongings during school activities (e.g., field trips, co-curriculars, school dances). Stored electronic paging or two-way communication devices must be programmed to a silent mode so as not to disrupt the educational environment.

Principals are authorized to establish school rules and acceptable use guidelines for limited, non-disruptive use of an electronic communication device during the school day in the school building or during school activities for safety, medical, vocational, or other legitimate uses.

The inappropriate use of personal cell phones or other digital devices by students while on campus is subject to disciplinary action. Students may not share or post personal information about or images of any other student or staff member without permission from that student or staff member. The inappropriate use of cameras or electronic communication devices includes but is not limited to the following examples. Cameras or electronic communication devices shall not be used:

- in areas where one would reasonably expect privacy, i.e. locker rooms, bathrooms, etc.
- to communicate test answers, photograph tests, or in any way enable students to cheat.
- to engage in cyber-bullying – placing cell phone calls or sending text messages that ridicule, threaten or harass another student.

The inappropriate use of the Internet, personal cell phones, and other digital devices by students while off campus is subject to disciplinary action if engaging in cyber bullying or maintaining or posting material to a website or blogging that threatens a likelihood of disruption in school or results in disruption in school. Also, students involved in activities that interfere with the rights of other students to participate fully in school or extracurricular activities will be in violation of this policy.

443.5 (Cont.)

Violation of this policy by students will result in disciplinary action which may include: revocation of District technology use privileges; application of school disciplinary practices and procedures; notification of law enforcement officials; notification of parents/guardians or legal custodians; notification of the activities director and/or co-curricular coaches/advisors; notification of the District Superintendent or designee; suspension from school; recommendation for expulsion. *Unauthorized items may be confiscated and held by school officials for return to parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student, retained for disciplinary reasons, or turned over to law enforcement officers.*

The rules related to this policy will be published in student handbooks and distributed annually.

Whenever this policy is revised by the Board, the Superintendent of Schools shall submit a copy of such policy to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Student Nondiscrimination

The Appleton Area School District does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or physical, cognitive, emotional or learning disability in its education programs or activities. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin State Statute 118.258

Adoption Date: September 13, 1993

Amended Dates: June 28, 1999, May 22, 2006, and May 14, 2007