



Administrative Regulation 5810 USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY STUDENTS – PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Responsible: Office of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

PURPOSE

This Administrative Regulation describes the process in which the Washoe County School District (District) handles the use of personal electronic devices by students. Such devices include, but are not limited to smart phones, cell phones, smart watches, ear buds, and tablets.

REGULATION

1. The District promotes 21st Century Learning and the responsible and thoughtful use of personal electronic devices at the discretion of school administration, to support student achievement.
2. Electronic devices can be disruptive, interfere with emergency responses, and interfere with student learning, to include the disruption of the learning of those who are not in possession of such devices. The following governing principles shall guide personal electronic device use:
 - a. At the discretion of school administration, students may possess or use electronic devices outside of the classroom/instructional time, provided that the use of such devices does not interfere with the instructional process or normal school operations. Teachers and administrators reserve the right to confiscate a student's electronic device if it is interfering with instruction or school operations.
 - i. A student's failure to relinquish an electronic device when requested by teachers and/or administrators will constitute a major behavioral infraction.
 - b. If an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan created by an IEP or Section 504 team decides that a student needs access to an electronic device to access curriculum, instruction or specially designed instruction, the school must allow the student to utilize such accommodations.
 - c. Unless otherwise specified in an IEP or Section 504 Plan, electronic devices shall not be used in classrooms during assessments, semester exams, or other testing.

- d. Inside the classroom or during instructional time, school buildings and during the school day, electronic devices shall be in the “off” position, and stored unless the devices are being used for instructional purposes as approved by the teacher and principal.
3. Consequences for electronic device violations are as follows:
- a. For a first offense in which the inappropriate use is determined to be disruptive but not a safety issue, the behavior should be classified as a minor infraction.
 - b. Three electronic device violations in a 10-school day period in which support for the student has been provided for the previous two electronic device violations will be classified as a major infraction either coded as “Disregard for School Rules” or “Disturbance of School Activities.”
 - c. If in the judgment of school administration, any electronic device violation rises beyond the minor level because of a major disruption to the education environment or because of a safety concern, the infraction should be classified as a major behavior.
 - d. Consistent with disciplinary practices for all minor and major behavioral infractions, progressive discipline steps as outlined in the School District’s Progressive Discipline Plan should be followed. Because school administrators have discretion to allow use of electronic devices for educational reasons, use of an electronic device is not explicitly referenced as its own behavior infraction in the Progressive Discipline Plan. However, use of electronic devices in the commission of a separate behavior infraction may include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Threats to safety and well-being;
 - ii. Bullying, including cyberbullying;
 - iii. Discrimination, harassment, and intimidation;
 - iv. Instigation/promotion of fighting;
 - v. Extortion;
 - vi. Sexual misconduct;
 - vii. Disregard for school rules;
 - viii. Disturbance of school activities and/or instruction; and
 - ix. Disturbing the peace.

- e. After an electronic device violation occurs, the teacher or school administrator has the discretion to confiscate a student's electronic device
 - i. The parent/guardian shall be notified as soon as practical of the infraction and that the device was confiscated.
 - ii. Rules for electronic device use shall be reviewed with the student and parent, and the electronic device should be returned after such review.
- f. If an electronic device is confiscated for a third time in the same school year, at the school administrator's discretion, a student's privileges for use of electronic devices may be revoked for the remainder of the school year and can be applied to the subsequent year should there be fewer than 90 days remaining in the current school year. The school will work with the student's parent/guardian to ensure the device is left at home for the duration of the school year.
 - i. In applying their discretion, school administrators should consider factors such as whether the violation occurred due to a family, health, or safety emergency, whether the phone was used for educational purposes, etc.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This Administrative Regulation reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 5100, Student Behavior
2. This Administrative Regulation complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to include:
 - a. Chapter 392, Pupils, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 392.4637, Policy concerning use and possession of pagers, cellular telephones and other electronic devices.
3. This Administrative Regulation references and is associated with the Washoe County School District Progressive Discipline Plan.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
12/06/2010	A	Initial Release as CSI procedure (SUP-P003)
3/05/2015	1.0	Converted to Administrative Regulation
11/26/2024	2.0	Revised when students may access electronic devices, expanded the types of behavior infractions that are associated with electronic devices, and modified the consequences for electronic device offenses.