Franklin Board Policy	Section: J
Category: Priority/ Required	Code: JICJ

Unauthorized Communication Devices

A. Purpose

The District is committed to providing students with a learning environment free from disruptions. Use of personal communication devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, other communication devices, smartwatches, etc.) for nonacademic means often leads to disruptions in the learning environment for both individual students and the classroom.

For the purposes of this policy, a personal communication device is defined as any non-district provided internet/ cellular-capable device that can support voice or video calls, texts, emails, or instant messages. Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to: cellphones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches. For ease of reference, devices provided by the district for instructional use shall be referred to as "district- owned" or district-provided" devices.

B. Restrictions

Student use of personal communication devices is strictly prohibited from when the first bell rings to start instructional time until the dismissal bell rings to end the academic school day (referred to as “the school day”). The school day includes lunch periods, passing time, and recesses.

Students participating in extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, field trips or other activities outside of the school day shall abide by the rules and consequences established for personal communication devices set by the coach, instructor, sponsor or other designated supervisor for the activity. However, in no event shall personal communication devices (or any other device with photographic or recording capabilities) be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other location where such use could violate another person’s reasonable expectation of privacy.

If digital devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom, the District is responsible for providing District-owned devices.

While it is best practice that these devices are not brought to school, if these devices are brought to school, they shall be kept with the power turned off, on the student’s person or in the student's assigned locker. If this process is not sufficient, further steps will be taken. The District will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any electronic communication device brought to the school.

C. Exceptions

Students with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or disabilities that require a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or a multilingual student with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall be exempt from this policy. Additionally, the superintendent or their designee may approve additional exceptions on a case-by-case basis or through an administrative decision recorded in the student handbook, with respect to student medical, disability, or language proficiency needs.

D. Consequences and Violations

Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review a student's personal electronic device subject to the limitations of RSA 189:70, if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a

student has violated board policies, regulations, school rules, or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal electronic device.

Consequences for violations of this policy will be pursuant to the Student Handbooks.

Additionally:

1. **First Offense**: Administrative warning and communication to parents/ guardians.
2. **Second Offense**: The electronic communication device will be confiscated. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted. The student must pick up the device at the end of the school day from the principal or superintendent's office.
3. **Third Offense**: The electronic communication device will be confiscated. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted and must pick up the device from the principal or superintendent's office. Furthermore, all devices must be surrendered to the main office upon arrival at the start of the school day, for a period of time determined by the principal or their designee.

E. Review

The Superintendent shall annually review policy in collaboration with parent(s) and teachers with a report and recommendations for policy changes to be delivered to the Board each school year and published in the Student Handbooks.

F. Dissemination

The Superintendent shall ensure that information regarding the prohibition against using personal communication devices during the school day are included in all student handbooks, and included in "beginning of school year" materials provided to parents/guardians.

District Policy History

First reading: 8/25/25
Second reading/adopted: 8/25/25
District revision history:

Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

NH Statutes	Description
RSA 189:68	Student Privacy
RSA 189:68-a	Student Online Personal Information
RSA 189:70	Educational Institution Policies on Social Media
RSA 644:21	Searches of Portable Electronic Devices

Code	Description
EHAB	Data Governance and Security
EHAG	Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence
JIC	Student Conduct
JICL	School District Internet Access for Students
JICL	School District Internet Access for Students