CODE: **JFCK**

STUDENT USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Committee recognizes that many students possess cell phones and other electronic devices. These devices may not be used in any manner that disrupts the instructional process or violates Board policies or school rules.

The Wiscasset School Department 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.

The following provisions apply to student use of cell phones and other electronic devices:

A. Students are prohibited from using privately-owned electronic devices including but not limited to cell phones, “smart phones,” I-Pods, MP3 players, handheld computers/PDAs, and electronic games at school or during school activities except when the teacher or building principal authorizes use for a specific educational, health or safety purpose.

B. The use of cameras, including camera phones, is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, and other places where privacy is generally expected. In all other school locations, permission must be granted before photographing another person.

C. School administrators may designate appropriate times and places during which cell phones and other electronic devices may be used (e.g., during lunch periods, study halls, or on school buses traveling to school activities).

D. The use of a cell phone or other electronic device in any manner that violates Committee policy or school rules is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to harassment, cheating and violations of the student code of conduct. If a Board policy or school rule is violated, the teacher or school administrator may confiscate the device for the remainder of the school day. Student cell phones and other electronic devices may be subject to search if there is reasonable suspicion of a violation.

E. Students who violate Committee policy or school rules will be subject to disciplinary consequences which may include:

1. Confiscation of the device until the end of the school day;

2. A conference with the student's parent/guardian;

3. Exclusion of the device from school for an extended period of time;

4. Penalties up to suspension or expulsion from school, depending upon the nature and circumstances of the violation and the student's prior disciplinary record; and

5. Referral to law enforcement.

The Superintendent/designee may develop additional rules to implement this policy. The policy and rules will be communicated to students and parents through the student handbook and/or the student code of conduct.

Cross Reference: JIC–Student Code of Conduct
JIH–Questioning and Searches of Students

Reviewed:
First Read: September 10, 2024
Second Read: October 8, 2024
Adopted: October 8, 2024

Original:
First Read: January 8, 2019
Adopted: February 12, 2019