

Policy Code: 4318 Use of Wireless Communication and Other Electronic Devices

PURPOSE: To establish criteria and procedures governing the access of the FCS wireless network and the implementation of the Franklin County Schools "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) program

The Board recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices have become an important tool through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students are permitted to possess such devices on school property as long as such devices are not activated, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by local school rules or school personnel.

Wireless communication and other electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios, electronic games, laser pointers, cameras, video cameras and similar devices.

BYOD devices will be secondary devices for student use. All students, at schools that have a 1:1 initiative, are required to have a district issued chromebook as their primary device. Seniors and Super Seniors at Franklin County Early College High School may opt out of 1:1.

Authorized Use

Administrators may authorize individual students to use wireless communication devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such communication. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes provided that they supervise the students during such use.

Although general use of electronic devices is permitted during non-instructional hours, use of cellular phones and other wireless communication devices may be prohibited on school buses when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the buses. In addition, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs are prohibited from using wireless communication devices for the duration of such programming.

Consequences for Unauthorized Use

School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed or visible in violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless communication devices will be returned only to the student's parent or guardian.

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with Section D of Policy #4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee

shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of this policy.

The following factors should be considered when determining appropriate consequences whether the wireless communication device was used: (1) to reproduce images of tests, obtain unauthorized access to school information or assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; and (2) to bully or harass other students; (3) to send illicit text messages; (4) to take and/or send illicit photographs; or (5) in any other manner that would make more severe disciplinary consequences appropriate.

Search of Wireless Communication Devices

In accordance with Policy #4342, Student Searches, a student's wireless communication device and its contents, including, but not limited to text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, board policy, the Code of Student Conduct or a school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.

Liability

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication devices. The school district is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of a cellular phone or any other personal wireless communication device.

Permission to bring and to use personally owned devices is contingent upon adherence to the School System's BYOD Guidelines and Policy #4312, Technology Responsible Use. All users shall be required to acknowledge receipt and understanding of all administrative regulations governing use of the system and shall agree in writing to comply with such regulations and guidelines. Noncompliance with applicable regulations shall result in disciplinary action which may result in suspension or termination of privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with FCS policies. Violations of law may result in criminal prosecution as well as disciplinary action by the District.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-36](#), [-390.2](#)

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies/Code of Student Conduct (policy 4300), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315), Student Searches (policy 4342), Technology Responsible Use (policy 4312)

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Revised:

Franklin County Schools