

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2656**

### **Discipline**

#### **Cellular Phones, Beepers, and Mobile Communication Devices**

Developments in cell phone technology in recent years have resulted in enhanced communication opportunities. However, the use of cell phones in schools poses increasing risks of school disruptions, bullying, criminal activity, and academic dishonesty. As a result, student cell phones, digital cameras and similar electronic devices may not be used or displayed during the school day, as well as, in dressing areas during extracurricular activities. Violation of this policy during the first semester after adoption of this policy will result in in-school suspension, while second offenses will result in out-of-school suspension being imposed.

However, such electronic devices may be used in serious, unexpected and dangerous situations that require immediate action. Such emergency situations include but are not limited to:

1. An active fire
2. An active tornado or earthquake
3. An active shooter
4. An evacuation of school premises
5. Any other serious, unexpected and dangerous situations that require immediate action
6. Any situation identified in School Board Policy as an emergency

In addition, exceptions include situations when a student is directed to use such a device by a District employee or volunteer for instructional purposes. Exceptions will also be made when use of such electronic device is provided or required by:

1. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
2. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
3. An individualized emergency health care plan as provided by Missouri statute
4. Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)
5. Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII)
6. Equal Educational Opportunities Act

The Knox County R-I School District is vitally interested in ensuring that its schools present an educational environment that is suitable for learning and free from unnecessary distractions that interfere with the learning process. The district recognizes that student's possession and/or use of electronic communication devices can interfere with this learning process. Cell phones are prohibited from being used in any manner that can be potentially embarrassing or disrespectful towards staff or students.

Consequences for students using electronic devices, including cell phones, during instructional time will be determined by individual building handbooks approved by the board of education each year.

### **Immunity**

School employees and volunteers are immune from liability provided that they are acting in good faith and are adhering to this Policy's disciplinary procedures.

This Policy will be published on the District's website.

Adopted: October 21, 2014

Revised: January 21, 2025

Re-Adopted: September 16, 2025

Knox County R-I School District, Edina, Missouri