

Students

MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The Governing Board recognizes that student use of smartphones and other mobile communication devices (MCDs) on campus may be beneficial to student learning ~~and well-being, and~~ but could also be harmful and disruptive of ~~to~~ the instructional program and student well being in some circumstances. When on campus or under the supervision of district employees, students may use smartphones and other mobile communication devices only as permitted under this policy.

MCDs include, but are not limited to, smartphones, smartwatches, wearable communication devices, and other devices with internet access, social media capability, or applications beyond basic calling and texting.

The Governing Board asserts its right to regulate students' possession and use of MCDs while on school sites and under the supervision of school employees. This authority is granted by California Education Code Sections 48901.5 and 48901.7, as amended by AB 3216.

MCDs shall not be used in any manner that infringes on the privacy rights of any other person.

Acceptable uses and limitations of MCDs use are as follows:

1. MCDs may be used by students outside the school day for school-sponsored activities, including, but not limited to, dances, athletics, and performances.
2. Elementary students shall not use or have their MCDs visible during the school day. Devices must be turned off or silenced and stored in backpacks or other designated storage during the entire school day, including class time, passing periods, breaks, and lunch periods.
3. Middle and high school students shall have MCDs turned off or silenced, and stored out of sight (e.g., stored in backpacks or other designated storage) during instructional time unless a teacher explicitly grants permission for instructional use. This includes while students are in the classroom, even if they have finished their work, and during restroom breaks that occur during instructional time. MCDs may be used outside of instructional time, including passing periods, lunch, and breaks.

~~Students may use smartphones, or other mobile communication devices on campus during noninstructional time as long as the device is utilized in accordance with law and any applicable school rules.~~

~~Mobile communication devices shall be turned off during instructional time.~~

~~However, a~~ Students shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device smartphone under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

- ~~1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger~~
- ~~2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator~~

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3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use of a smartphone is necessary for the student's health and or well-being of the pupil. Documentation from the physician may be required and kept on file with the school nurse.
4. When the possession or use of a smartphone is required by the student's in a pupils individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

~~The Superintendent or designee may undertake measures or strategies in accordance with law, to limit student access to smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus. (Education Code 48901.7)~~

~~Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person.~~

~~A student's personal electronic device shall not be searched without the consent of the student's parent/guardian, except pursuant to a lawfully issued warrant, when a school official, in good faith, believes that an emergency involving danger of death or serious physical injury to the student or others requires access to the electronic device information, or when the search is otherwise permitted pursuant to Penal Code 1546.1.~~

When a student uses a mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner while at a school site or under the supervision and control of a district employee, the student may be disciplined and the district employee may temporarily confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate.

A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device which that poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities.

A student's MCDs may only be searched in accordance with NHUSD Board Policy 5145.12 - Search and Seizure.

The district will not be responsible or liable for a student's mobile communication device which that is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.

~~The Board shall review and, as necessary, update this policy at least once every five years. Any such review or update shall include significant stakeholder participation to ensure that the policy is responsive to the unique needs and desires of the school community.~~

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

<u>State</u>	<u>Description</u>
5 CCR 300-307	Duties of students
Civ. Code 1714.1	Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor
Ed. Code 200-270	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 32280-32289.5	School safety plans

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Ed. Code 35181	Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students
Ed. Code 35291-35291.5	Rules
Ed. Code 44807	Teachers' duty concerning conduct of students
Ed. Code 48900-48925	Suspension and expulsion
Ed. Code 48901.5	Prohibition of electronic signaling devices
Ed. Code 48901.7	Limitation or prohibition of student use of smartphones
Ed. Code 48901.8	Limitation or prohibition of student use of social media
Ed. Code 51512	Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device
Pen. Code 1546.1	Electronic Communications Privacy Act
Pen. Code 288.2	Harmful matter with intent to seduce
Pen. Code 313	Harmful matter
Pen. Code 647	Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor
Pen. Code 653.2	Electronic communication devices; threats to safety
Veh. Code 23123-23124	Prohibitions against use of electronic devices while driving

<u>Federal</u>	<u>Description</u>
20 USC 1681-1688	Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex

<u>Management Resources</u>	<u>Description</u>
California Department of Education Publication	Bullying at School, 2003
Court Decision	Safford Unified School District V. Redding (2009) 557 US 364
Court Decision	Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L. (2021) 141 S.Ct. 2038
Court Decision	J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094
Court Decision	New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985) 469 U.S. 325
Court Decision	Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969) 393 U.S. 503
CSBA Publication	Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, rev. July 2010
CSBA Publication	Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Planning Together: A Playbook for Student Personal Device Policies, December 2024
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	National School Safety Center
Website	Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use
Website	California Department of Education, Safe Schools
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education

<u>Cross References Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
5131	Conduct
5131.2	Bullying
5131.2	Bullying
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5131.9	Academic Honesty

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5137	Positive School Climate
5141.52	Suicide Prevention
5141.52	Suicide Prevention
5145.12	Search And Seizure
5145.12	Search And Seizure
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6163.4	Student Use Of Technology
6163.4-E(1)	Student Use Of Technology

First Reading

May 5, 2020

May 27, 2025 (Policy Review Committee)

April 21, 2026

Second Reading

May 19, 2020

June 17, 2025

May 5, 2026

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