

Obion County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Use of Personal Communication Devices in School	Descriptor Code: 6.312	Issued Date: 12/04/06
		Rescinds: 6.312	Issued: 06/06/05

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Personal communication devices for purposes of this policy are devices such as, but not limited to, cell phones and pagers. Students may not possess personal communication devices on their person during school hours. Such devices should be left in the student's automobile or locker during the school day. The devices should be left in the "off mode" if stored in the student's locker and should not be visible during regular school hours or during bus routes to and from school. Use or improper storage of personal communication devices in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action as indicated below.

A student shall not possess a pager or personal communication device unless he/she has a permit and is on active duty as a member of a volunteer fire fighting organization or a volunteer emergency medical service organization. In order to obtain a permit, the minor must have secured signed consent from one of his/her parents or legal guardian(s).¹

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal electronic devices for purposes of this policy are devices such as, but not limited to, CD players, Ipods, MP3 players, audio recording devices, cameras and radios. The use of personal electronic devices during school hours is strictly prohibited. Use or improper storage of personal electronic devices in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action as indicated below.

In emergency and/or unusual circumstances, the principal or his/her designee may grant a student permission to use a personal communication and/or electronic device at his/her discretion.

The use of cameras (e.g., video, digital, or still photography) or cameras on personal communication devices is strictly prohibited on school property or at school related activities unless express permission is given by the principal and/or his/her designee.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

If problems arise from the improper use of personal communication devices and/or personal electronic devices, the following disciplinary action will be taken:

FIRST OFFENSE

Devices will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day. A record of this offense will be recorded in the school's database.

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SECOND OFFENSE

Devices will be confiscated and returned to the parent/guardian. A record of this infraction will also be recorded in the school's database.

THIRD OFFENSE

Devices will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school year.

Neither the school system nor individual schools shall retain any responsibility/liability for loss, theft, or unauthorized use of electronic devices.

Teachers may have a cell phone in their possession but it shall be used only in their planning time and when students are not present.

Legal Reference:
1. TCA 49-6-4214