

# Obion County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in April</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Use of Personal Communication and Electronic Devices in School</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.312</b>	Issued Date: <b>05/07/12</b>
		Rescinds: <b>6.312</b>	Issued: <b>12/04/06</b>

## PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal communication/electronic devices for purposes of this policy are devices such as, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, CD players, Ipods, Ipads, MP3 players, audio recording devices, cameras, and radios.

### STUDENTS IN GRADES K- 8

Students in grades K- 8 may not possess personal communication/electronic devices on their person during school hours. The use of personal communication/electronic devices during school hours is strictly prohibited. Such devices should be left in the student's locker or other secure area 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 the regular school hours or during bus routes to and from school. Use or improper storage of personal communication/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/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.

#### SECOND OFFENSE

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

#### THIRD OFFENSE

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

**STUDENTS IN GRADES 9 - 12**

Students in grades 9 - 12 may possess personal communication/electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones and Ipads, while on school property for student learning. A device used outside of established parameters shall result in confiscation of the device.

1. The taking of photos or the recording of videos, whether by cell phone or any other device, in places where privacy is a reasonable expectation is strictly prohibited. An incident of this nature could result in a sexual harassment violation.
2. Using cameras on cell phones or other devices to record altercations on school grounds or at school events is prohibited. In such cases, the devices may be confiscated as evidence.
3. Students are allowed to use cell phones and other devices in the classroom for educational purposes only and must be under the direct supervision of their teacher.
4. Students are allowed to use cell phones and other devices in the commons area/lunch room during morning and lunch breaks. Students may not use such devices during normal classroom breaks.
5. Under teacher direction, cell phones and other devices are to be placed on student desks, or other designated area, in the "off" or "quiet" mode at the beginning of each class period. If such device rings, vibrates, or causes disruption, the device shall be confiscated. Once placed in the designated area, the device shall remain there until the end of the class (i.e., if the student must leave the classroom for any reason, the device must remain in the designated area).
6. The devices should be left in the "off mode" and should not be visible during bus routes to and from school.

**Consequences for Procedure Violations**

1. Violation of the above procedure will result in the student's cell phone or other device being confiscated for seven (7) days.
2. Students may choose to have their cell phone or other device returned before the end of the seven (7) days by paying a twenty dollar (\$20), cash only, fine at the end of the school day in the main office.
3. An administrator will be contacted if the student refuses to give up the cell phone or other device for a violation or if a student turns in a "dummy" phone. The student's insubordination will result in disciplinary action.

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.