

## **USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY STUDENTS**

*Policy Code:* **4317**

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The Scotland County Board of Education recognizes that portable electronic devices, including without limitation, “I-pods,” cellular telephones, picture phones, “I-Phones”, PALM devices, “Blackberries,” and “Trios,” have become pervasive in our society. With this pervasiveness, appropriate and inappropriate uses of these devices have become evident in our schools. Understanding this dichotomy, the Board recognizes the importance of regulating such devices. Therefore, the following regulations shall apply to students’ possession and use of portable electronic devices:

1. Cellular telephones and other personal communication devices shall not be used by students during regular school hours. These devices shall be turned off and put away during regular school hours. Examples of prohibited use include, without limitation, ringing cellular telephones, keying or typing text messages or emails, use of “camera phone” features, and reviewing text messages, e-mails, or voicemails.
2. Handheld computers, such as PALM devices, “Blackberries,” or “Trios,” shall not be used except under the direction of the teacher. Beaming and text messaging by students while in class through the use of these handheld computers or cellular telephones are prohibited.
3. Picture phones and handheld computers with photographic capabilities present many unique challenges. Therefore, students shall not use these devices to send pictures of other students by email or other electronic means during regular school hours. In addition, these devices, if used in any way to facilitate academic cheating, shall result in appropriate academic sanctions and discipline pursuant to the Code of Student Conduct.
4. Personal music and video systems, such as “MP3” players, “I Pods”, CD players, etc., shall not be used by students during regular school hours.

Students in violation of this policy will have their devices confiscated by school officials and will be disciplined in accordance with Rule 5 of the Code of Student Conduct (Disrespect to Teachers and Other School Employees). A second violation of this policy by a student during the same school year shall result in that student being banned from possessing any portable electronic devices during regular school hours during the remainder of that school year. Failure to comply with a request to turn over such devices will be disciplined as a separate or additional violation of Rule 5. Nothing herein should be viewed as any limitation upon school personnel to impose additional disciplinary sanctions under the Code of Student Conduct or applicable law, as circumstances may warrant. Confiscated devices shall be secured by the school administration and released only to the parent or legal guardian of the student. Neither the school nor the Scotland County Board of Education assumes liability for the loss or damage of these confiscated devices, and students, parents, or guardians shall have no expectation of privacy regarding information, data, communications, or photos present or stored in such devices.

A copy of this policy shall be posted or made available in all classrooms for the benefit of students and staff. Principals are hereby authorized to ban all student portable electronic devices from their campuses on days during which statewide, end of grade, end of course, or other similar testing will be conducted.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36

Adopted: July 16, 2007