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## STUDENT USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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The Bangor School Committee recognizes that many students possess cell phones and other electronic devices. These devices may not be used in any manner that disrupts the instructional process or violates Committee policies or school rules.

The Bangor School Department shall not be responsible for the loss, theft or damage to cell phones or other electronic devices that students bring with them to school or school activities or use on school transportation.

The following provisions apply to student use of cell phones and other electronic devices:

- A. Students are prohibited from using privately-owned electronic devices including but not limited to cell phones, “smart devices,” I-Pods, MP3 players, handheld computers/PDAs, and electronic games at school or at school activities except when the administration authorizes use for a specific educational, health or safety purpose. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure the device is turned off during times of unauthorized use.
- B. The use of cameras, including camera phones, is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, and other places where privacy is generally expected. In all other school locations, use of cameras is limited to instructional purposes and permission must be granted before photographing another person.
- C. School administrators designate appropriate times and places during which privately-owned electronic devices may be used (e.g., during lunch periods or on school buses traveling to school activities). Please refer to student handbooks for school specific rules.
- D. The use of a cell phone or other electronic device in any manner that violates Committee policy or school rules is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to harassment, cheating, violations of the student code of conduct, and any use that constitutes an invasion of privacy. Examples include but are not limited to text messages, photographs, and calls. If a Committee policy or school rule is violated, the teacher or school administrator may confiscate the device for the remainder of the school day. Student cell phones and other electronic devices may be subject to search if there is reasonable suspicion of a violation.
- E. Students who violate Committee policy or school rules will be subject to disciplinary consequences which may include some or all of the following:
  - 1. Confiscation of the device until the end of the school day and parents will be notified;
  - 2. A conference with the student’s parent/guardian;
  - 3. Exclusion of the device from school for an extended period of time;
  - 4. Penalties up to suspension or expulsion from school, depending upon the nature and circumstances of the violation and the student’s prior disciplinary record; and
  - 5. Referral to law enforcement.

The Superintendent/designee may develop additional rules to implement this policy. The policy and rules will be communicated to students and parents through the student handbook.

ADOPTED: November 18, 2015  
REVISED: November 15, 2018  
REVIEWED: October 22, 2019

