

## STUDENT CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

### **Piseco Common School District**

The Board of Education of the *Piseco Common School District* (hereinafter referred to as “District”), recognizes that students may have personal electronic devices (defined below) that can perform different functions. These devices can create significant distractions to the school environment and reduce student engagement. Additionally, in an emergency, the use of personal electronic devices can distract students from following the directions of staff or emergency responders, contribute to the spread of misinformation, create congestion in the emergency response system, and interfere with the District’s emergency response.

In accordance with New York State Education Law Section 2803, which prohibits the use of “internet-enabled devices” during the school day and on school grounds, the District sets for the following rules and expectations regarding the use of such devices on School District property.

#### **I. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Electronic Devices” shall include but not necessarily be limited to: cellular phones (both “smart phones” and call/text phones only), tablets, smartwatches, wired or wireless headphones and earbuds, walkie-talkies, personal digital assistants (PDA), pagers, laptops with two-way messaging, other hand-held computing devices (when such is being used as a communication device), and internet-connected accessories, e-readers, calculators, voice recorders, cameras, music devices and fitness trackers. This definition shall also include any new device developed for communicating via voice, text, or images/video. Excluded from this definition is any District-provided device for instructional purposes and District-issued cell phones for professional use.
- B. “School District Property” or “Premises” shall include but not be limited to: any real property owned or controlled by the District, buses/vehicles owned and/or controlled by the District, any locations where school sponsored/supervised events may be taking place, any buildings, structures, athletic fields, playgrounds, parking lots, and land within the District’s boundaries.

#### **II. PROHIBITED USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY**

- A. Since the District is noninstructional, students attend other nearby districts. Students from Piseco are expected to abide by the policies established by those districts regarding the prohibited use of electronic devices on school property of the district. This pertains to times those devices are prohibited and storage of electronic devices.

- B. The District shall not assume any responsibility/liability for theft, loss, or damage of an electronic device or for any unauthorized calls made on an electronic device. For students who violate this policy and are required to hand in their device to District administration, the District will exercise reasonable care to maintain the security of such devices that are held by the District but cannot guarantee the devices will be secure.

### **III. EXCEPTIONS/EXEMPTIONS**

- A. Students may possess electronic devices as follows:

1. Before and after the instructional day
2. In the event of an emergency.
3. When required by law.
4. Students with a district-approved medical or disability related reasons. Requests must be made to Superintendent of Schools and must include documentation from an appropriate licensed medical or educational professional.
5. If authorized by a teacher, principal, or the school district for a specific educational purpose.
6. For translation purposes. Requests must be made to Superintendent of Schools.
7. For students who are routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member on a case-by-case basis, upon review and determination by a school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor.

- B. All exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are at the sole discretion of the school district.

- C. If an exemption has been granted, personal devices must be silenced when not in use.

- D. During the times of day when students are permitted to possess and use electronic devices in the schools of the district students attend, students must abide by all district policies. It remains a violation of District policy to use electronic devices to:

- E. During the times of day when students are permitted to possess and use electronic devices in the District schools, students must abide by all district policies. It remains a violation of District policy to use electronic devices to:

1. Take photographs or videos of others without their consent.
2. Audio record others without their consent.
3. Possess or send inappropriate images or inappropriate written references.
4. Harass, bully or discriminate against, demean or ridicule another person(s) or group.
5. Cheat on school assignments/tests by sending or receiving confidential academic or testing information.
6. For purposes prohibited by SED regulations or state or federal law.

#### **IV. ENFORCEMENT/CONSEQUENCES**

- A. For students out of compliance with this policy, the District will support the consequences set forth in the policies of the district of attendance.
- B. Some uses of personal electronic devices may constitute a violation of the school district Code of Conduct or other district policies, and in some instances, the law. The district will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

#### **V. COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS/PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION**

- A. During the school day, to minimize distractions, parents/legal guardians (which, for purposes of this policy, includes persons in parental relation) may contact their children by calling the school office of the district of attendance. Students may contact their parents by methods stipulated in the policy of the district of attendance.

#### **VI. NOTIFICATION**

The District will publish an annual report on its website detailing the enforcement of this policy for the last school year with the applicable requirements as stated by Education Law section 2803. The District will include the information from this policy, or a plain language summary on the School District's website.

Upon request by a student or parent, the district will translate this policy into any of the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by limited-English proficient individuals in the state, as identified by the most recent American community survey published by the U.S. Census bureau.

Ref: Education Law §2803

*Price v. New York City Board of Education*, 51 A.D.3d 277, lv. to appeal denied, 11 N.Y.3d 702 (2008) (District may ban possession of cell phones on school property)

NYSED, *Prohibition of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices in New York State Assessments*, [www.nysed.gov/educator-integrity/prohibition-cell-phones-and-electronic-devices-new-york-state-assessments](http://www.nysed.gov/educator-integrity/prohibition-cell-phones-and-electronic-devices-new-york-state-assessments).

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