

Students

Use of Technological Devices by Students in School

Students may possess privately-owned technological devices on school property and/or during school sponsored activities, in accordance with the mandates of this policy and any applicable administrative regulations as may be developed by the Superintendent of Schools.

Definitions

Board Technology Resources

For the purposes of this policy, “Board Technology Resources” refers to the Board’s computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technological resources owned and/or used by the school district and accessible by students.

Privately Owned Technological Devices

For the purposes of this policy, “Privately Owned Technological Devices” refers to privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound playback and recording, and information transmission and/or receiving, storing, etc. These devices may include, but not limited to, personal laptops, tablet computers, smartphones, cellular telephones, e-readers, listening devices or personal audio players, network access devices and other electronic signaling devices.

Use of Board-Issued Technological Devices

Students are allowed to use their Board-issued device (e.g. Ipad or Chromebook) at all times of the school day, unless otherwise directed by the teacher or instructional staff. The Board-issued technological device is the only device allowed during instructional times: i.e. - class time.

Use of Privately-Owned Technological Devices

Students may use their privately-owned device during non-instructional times, such as before and after school and study hall. Privately-owned technological devices may only be used during instructional time, as permitted by instructional staff for a specific purpose.

Use of Technological Devices by Students in School (continued)

Improper Use of any Technological Device

Use of any such device for an improper purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime).
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to Board technological resources;
- Damaging Board technological resources;
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene or contains pornography;
- Cyberbullying;
- Using such device to violate any school rule, including the unauthorized recording (photographic, video, or audio) of another individual without the permission of the individual or a school staff member; or
- Taking any action prohibited by any Federal or State law.
- Using technological devices in a manner that disrupts the educational process.

Search of Privately Owned Technological Devices

A student's privately owned technological device may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school, in accordance with policy 5150. Any such search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive considering the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Responsibility for Privately Owned Technological Devices

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their privately owned technological devices. If a privately owned technological device is stolen, lost, or damaged, a report should be made to the building principal, who will investigate the loss in a manner consistent with procedures for stolen or damaged personal property. Students and parents should be aware that the Board is not liable for any privately-owned technological device that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school or during a school-sponsored activity. For that reason, students are advised not to share or loan their privately-owned technological devices with other students.

Use of Technological Devices by Students in School (continued)

Disciplinary Action

Misuse of the Board's technological resources and/or the use of privately-owned technological devices to access or utilize the Board's technological resources in an inappropriate manner or the use of such devices in any manner inconsistent with this policy will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. For students, a violation of this policy may result in loss of access privileges, a prohibition on the use and/or possession of privately owned technological devices on school property or at school-sponsored activities, and/or disciplinary action potentially including suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Board's policies related to student discipline.

Access to Board Technology Resources

It is the policy of the Waterford Board of Education to permit students, using their privately owned technological devices, to access the Board's computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technological resources used by the school district and accessible by students. Additionally, it is the expectation of the Board of Education that students who access these resources while using privately-owned technological devices will always act appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technological use as well as all local, state, and federal laws.

Through the publication and dissemination of this policy statement (via district-wide annual notification manual) and others related to use of the Board's computer systems, as well as other instructional means, the Board educates students about the Board's expectations for technological users.

The Board technological resources shall only be used to access educational information and to promote learning activities both at home and at school. The Board considers access to its technological resources to be a privilege and not a right. Students are expected to always act appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technological use as well as all local, state, and federal laws when using the Board technological resources. Failure to do so will result in the consequences outlined herein and in other applicable policies (including, but not limited to, the Safe School Climate Plan 5020, the Student Discipline Policy 5180 and the Use of Computers Policy 5220).

Students must abide by the procedures outlined in this policy and all policies and applicable regulations outlined in the Board's computer use and other applicable policies. Students will be given specific information for log-on and access procedures for using school accounts. No user may deviate from these log-on/access procedures. **Students are advised that the Board's network administrators have the capability to identify users and to monitor all privately owned technological devices while they are logged on to the network, in accordance with policy 5220.** Students must understand that the Board has reserved the right to conduct monitoring of Board technological resources and can do so *despite* the assignment to individual users of passwords for system security. Any password systems implemented by the Board are designed solely to provide

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system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user. The system's security aspects, message delete function and personal passwords can be bypassed for monitoring purposes. Therefore, students should be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of privately owned technological devices to access Board technological resources. This provision applies to all uses of the Board's technological resources and any privately-owned technological devices that access the same.

Harm to Board Technological Resources

Any act by a student using a privately-owned technological device that harms, interferes with, or compromises the integrity of the Board's technological resources will be considered an act of vandalism and will be subject to discipline and/or appropriate criminal or civil action.

Closed Forum

This policy shall not be construed to establish a public forum or a limited open forum.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233j
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d
Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a-250, *et seq.*
Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986, Public Law 99-508 codified at 28 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

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