

## **STUDENTS**

# 5131.8(a)

### **CELL PHONE / ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY**

Connecticut General Statute § 10-233j requires that schools ban remotely activated paging devices unless there is written permission from the principal. Schools have the authority to restrict student possession or use of cell phones in school.

The Litchfield Public Schools recognizes that many students at all grade levels possess and bring cell phones and other electronic devices to school. It is recognized that parents may provide a cell phone to a student for safety or medical reasons. In consideration of the advancement of technology and the prevalence of electronic devices in our society, the Board will allow the possession of cell phones and other electronic devices at school, on buses, and school sponsored events, only as follows:

For the purpose of this policy, an electronic device is any two-way wireless communication device or devices for storing, playing, transmitting or receiving images, video, or audio files, and games.

Students will be permitted to bring their own computer to school to enhance their academic program only with prior permission from the administration. Permission will be granted in cases of academic programming which cannot be satisfied with a school device.

Cell Phones are permitted on school grounds and at school sponsored events but may not be used, heard, or displayed during the school day unless at the specific request of the classroom teacher, or as a result of senior privileges. Senior privileges are subject to the rules and contract set forth in Regulation as developed by the Superintendent.

During the instructional day, all electronic devices shall be turned off and stored in the students' bookbags, backpacks, and/or personal bags except as set forth below. The school day includes but is not limited to lunch breaks, recess periods, class changes, study halls, and any other structured or non-structured activity that occurs during the school day.

#### **Waiver of Liability**

The Litchfield Public School system assumes no liability for personal electronic devices that are lost, broken, or stolen.

#### **Consequences**

If a student violates this policy by using or displaying a cell phone or other electronic device in school during the school day, the consequences will be as follows:

1st Offense: Electronic device is confiscated by the administration. Student must collect the device from the main office of the school at the school day dismissal.

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2nd Offense: Electronic device is confiscated by the administration until a parent comes to the school and the electronic device is returned to the parent. Student may receive a detention or other age-appropriate consequence.

3rd Offense: Electronic device is confiscated by administration until a parent conference will be held. Student may be suspended or have other age appropriate consequence administered.

### **Prohibited Uses**

Devices shall not be used in an illegal manner or in a way which violates a published Board policy, including, but not limited to the following:

- a. In a locker room or restroom;
- b. In any classroom except under the direct supervision of the teacher;
- c. In any place or situation in which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, without the person's permission. (If the person is mentally impaired, permission must be obtained from the person's parent or guardian.)
- d. In a way that would violate copyright law;
- e. To harass, intimidate, bully another person;
- f. To invade a person's privacy.

Any image depicting persons in any place or situation in which there is a reasonable expectation of privacy may not be published, broadcast, or transmitted to any other person/device without the consent of the person/persons appearing in the image.

Audio and/or video recordings devices may be authorized by the Principal, and/or their designee, during a class and only in support of a student's specific educational needs. In such cases, the teacher and the entire class must be notified that the lesson is being recorded.

Audio and/or video recording devices may be used under the direct supervision of the teacher.

### **Laser Pointers**

A laser pointer is any hand-held device that emits a laser beam and is designed to be used by the operator to mark or identify a specific item, place, or position.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206e prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from possessing a laser pointer on school grounds or in any public place unless the laser pointer is being used for an educational purpose under the direct supervision of a parent, legal guardian, teacher or otherwise responsible adult.

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Therefore, students shall not bring laser pointers to schools. If one is needed in school, it will be provided to the student by the teacher.

No person in possession of a laser pointer shall shine, point, or focus the device directly or indirectly upon another person in any manner that can reasonably be considered to cause embarrassment, harassment, annoyance, fear of injury to such person.

(cf 5114.1 Suspension and Expulsion / Due Process)

(cf 5131 Conduct)

(cf 5144 – Student Discipline)

(cf 5145.5 Sexual Harassment)

Legal References:      Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233j. Student possession and use of telecommunica-  
  tion devices  
  Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206e. Limitations on sale and use of laser pointers  
  Title 17, United States Code – Copyrights  
  Title 18, United State Code, Chapter 19 – Wire and Electronic  
  Communications   Interception and   Interception of Oral  
  Communications

Litchfield Public Schools

Policy Adopted: 8/12/2015

Policy Revised: 10/21/2015, 6/6/2018