

EMPLOYEE USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The purpose of this policy is to address employee use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices (except laptops), whether RSU # 14 owned or personally owned, including those that send or receive text messages, allow retrieval or sending of email or provide Internet access.

The Board recognizes that the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be appropriate to the efficient operations of the schools and help to ensure the safety of students and staff and the security of the schools' property.

RSU # 14 employees may not use cell phones or electronic communication devices, whether owned by the District or personally owned, for non-school related business while they are engaged in instruction or supervision of students or of a school sponsored activity, or in any other manner that interferes with attending to and/or carrying out their job responsibilities. Employees are free to use their personal cell phones and other electronic communication devices during off-duty, lunch or break times.

Use of cell phones or electronic communication devices, whether owned by the District, or personally owned, in a manner that violates Board policies, administrative procedures and/or state or federal laws will result in discipline and referral to law enforcement officials, as appropriate. School administrators may confiscate and search a device when there is reasonable suspicion that an employee has violated this policy and that the device contains evidence of the violation.

In the interest of safety, RSU # 14 employees are prohibited from using held-held cell phones and electronic communications devices while driving RSU # 14 owned motor vehicles, whether transporting students, other staff, or driving alone. RSU # 14 employees are also prohibited from using hand-held cell phones and electronic communications devices while transporting students in private vehicles.

RSU # 14 may provide cell phones or other electronic communication devices to some employees to assist them in carrying out their employment-related duties on or off school property. The Superintendent / Designee shall have the discretion as to which employees will be provided RSU # 14 owned cell phones and other electronic communication devices, based upon need and availability.

RSU # 14 owned cell phones and other electronic communication devices are to be used for school-related business purposes and are not intended for personal use except in emergencies involving employee health or safety. Employees have no expectation of privacy in their use of RSU # 14 owned cell phones / electronic communications devices or the information stored on them.

School Bus Drivers

Employees operating a school bus or other District vehicle transporting students are prohibited from operating the vehicle while using a cell phone or other electronic communications device, whether personally owned or issued by RSU # 14, except during an emergency situation or to call for assistance in the event of a mechanical breakdown or other mechanical problem, and then only when the vehicle is stopped or parked.

Cross-Reference: GBC – Staff Ethics; GBCB – Staff Conduct; GBCD – Acceptable Use Policy;
GBEB – Staff Conduct with Students

First Reading: December 21, 2011

Second Reading: January 25, 2012