

WESTMORLAND UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy No. 5037: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Governing Board recognizes the right of students to utilize electronic devices during non-academic activities and non-academic hours, while maintaining the needs of the school to regulate access to and use of those same devices at times and during activities during which such devices may constitute a significant distraction to orderly school operations. To that end, the District, in compliance with California Education Code section 48901.5, has established this policy regulating the possession and use of electronic device/s during school hours.

For the purposes of this policy, "electronic signaling devices": include but are not limited to electronic devices such as cellular phones, pagers, text messenger, e-mail transponders, wireless devices, and other similar devices.

- I. Electronic Signaling Devices (Cellular Phones, Pager, Text Messengers, Wireless Devices, etc.)
 1. Electronic signaling devices must be turned completely off while the student is present on campus during school hours. When riding in a District vehicle signaling devices must also be turned completely off. Devices cannot be kept in silent or vibrate mode.
 2. Electronic signaling devices must be kept out of sight at all times throughout the school day and when riding in a District vehicle.
 3. Electronic signaling devices can only be used if the use of the device is essential to a pupil's health as verified by a physician's written instructions on file in the school office.

It is critical that electronic signaling devices be turned completely off during the school day to prevent disruption of the learning environment and to prevent using the messaging and camera functions to cheat during exams and participate in cyber bullying.

Students are to go to the office to make phone calls home. Parents and guardians are encouraged to call the school office when necessary. Students can make emergency phone calls from the main office or classroom, at the direction of the District staff during school hours when necessary.

- II. IPOD's, MP-3 Players, CD Players, Cameras of All Types Or Any Recording Device

1. IPOD's, MP-3 Players, CD Players, etc., and other devices are not to be brought to school. These items are a distraction to the learning environment.

III. Hold Harmless Clause

The District shall not be held responsible for the loss of or damage to any student's electronic device on school property. Possession and usage of any and all electronic devices carries with it the inherent risk of loss, both by theft and accident, and damage, both accidental and intentional. Students who bring such devices to school will bear responsibility for any such loss or damage which might occur.

IV. Confiscation

Electronic devices which are used in violation of this policy are subject to confiscation by any employee of the District. Any device which is confiscated shall be turned over to an Administrator for securing.

V. Recovery

Any device which has been confiscated and delivered to Administration may be recovered under the following conditions:

1st Offense: A parent or guardian must come to the school office, no earlier than the end of the same school day on which the device was confiscated, and meet with the school Administrator to pick up the item.

2nd Offense: The item will be stored in the school office for the period of fourteen calendar days prior to being eligible for return. The student and parent/guardian will meet with administration to discuss the violation and review the school's policy.

Additional Offenses: The student will be suspended for violation of Education Code 48900(k), Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. Additionally, the electronic device will be confiscated for twenty-one days.

Any student in possession of an electronic signaling device or other electronic device which in some form becomes evident to any school staff will be subject to standard school disciplinary as outlined by this Policy.

Legal Reference:

Education Code sections 48901-5, 51512

Penal Code Sections 417.25-417.27, 647, 647.7, 453.2

Date Policy Adopted by the Board: August 21, 2012

Date Policy Amended By the Board: February 12, 2019