

## SCHOLAR USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which scholars may possess, including but not limited to **scholar-owned** cellular phones, digital picture/video cameras and/or camera phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), iPods, MP3s, pagers and other personal electronic devices capable of transmitting data or images.

It is recognized that parents may provide a cell phone to a scholar for safety or medical reasons. It is also recognized that these devices, which may be given with a noble intent, can become distractions to the academic environment and therefore negatively impact instruction. 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, as outlined within this policy.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Jackson Public School District holds high expectations for scholar behavior, academic integrity and responsible use of existing and emerging technologies, such as cellular phones, digital picture/video cameras and/or phones and other personal electronic devices capable of capturing and/or transmitting data or images. Scholars who possess and/or use such devices at school or school sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community. The possession of an electronic device is not a violation of the Code of Scholar Conduct. However, the possession of an electronic device when used to disturb the educational process, carry out criminal activity, or disturb/interfere with the safety-to-life issue for scholars being transported on a Jackson Public Schools bus or at school facilities, are infractions of the Code of Scholar Conduct.

### III. STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE USE AT SCHOOL, ON SCHOOL BUSES OR AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

#### A. Respect for the Educational Environment

- i. Cellular phones and other personal electronic devices shall be turned off and kept out of sight at all times including the daily bus ride to and/or from school.
- ii. Electronic devices shall not be used in any way that disrupts or detracts from the educational environment or cause a disturbance on the school bus.
- iii. The use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom, lunchroom, gym, auditorium, media centers, cafeteria, hallways, and testing centers during the school day.
- iv. Permission to leave class in response to any electronic device shall not be granted.
- v. With prior approval of the school principal, teachers or other staff members may permit the purposeful use of personal electronic devices in support of curriculum **teaching and** learning objectives.
- vi. In the case of medical necessity or emergency, a scholar shall be permitted to possess or use a cell phone or other personal electronic device provided the scholar receives advanced authorization from the school principal.
- vii. To legitimately report a violation of the Code of Scholar Conduct, a potentially dangerous situation or other misconduct to school officials or other legal authorities shall be considered responsible use.

## **B. Respect for Privacy Rights**

- i. Scholars shall not photograph, record, or videotape other individuals at school or at school sponsored activities without their knowledge and consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena such as sporting events or public performances.
- ii. Scholars shall neither e-mail, post to the Internet, nor electronically transmit images of other individuals taken at school without their expressed written consent.
- iii. Scholars are strictly forbidden to either use or display cellular phones or other personal electronic devices in locker rooms and restrooms.

## **C. Assuring Academic Integrity**

Scholars shall not use cellular phones or other electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the scholar may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy.

## **D. Compliance with Other District Policies**

Use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices must not violate any other District policies, including those regarding scholar privacy, code of scholar conduct, electronic technologies acceptable use, or harassment. If a violation occurs involving more than one District policy, consequences for each policy may apply.

## **IV. VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY**

- A. First Infraction:** An employee shall direct the scholar to turn off the device. The employee shall then confiscate the device and turn it in to the school office where the scholar may retrieve it at the end of the school day along with notification of a parent or guardian.
- B. Second Infraction:** The second infraction shall result in confiscation of the device, which is to be turned into the school office. Notification to a parent or guardian shall be given that the phone will be kept for five (5) days or a \$15.00 fine.
- C. Third Infraction:** The third infraction shall result in confiscation of the device, which is to be turned into the school office. Notification shall be given to a parent or guardian that the phone will be kept for 10 days or a \$25.00 fine.
- D. Repeated or Severe Infraction:** Any additional violations will carry the same consequence as the third infraction: phone kept for 10 days or a \$25.00 fine

***•All fines must be paid with a money order, cashier's check, or online payment (as available). School staff cannot accept cash payments.***

Refusal to surrender a device will result in disciplinary action consistent with the code of conduct.

Discipline for scholars with disabilities shall be administered in accordance with district policy, state, and federal law.

Scholars assigned to an alternative setting as a disciplinary consequence are excluded from the provisions of this policy. These scholars are prohibited from the possession and/or use of an electronic device at all times during the school day and while on school premises or in school vehicles.

## **V. WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

Jackson Public School District will not be responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen wireless communication or personal technology device. Neither will school district employees be held

liable for wireless communication or personal technology devices that are damaged, lost, or stolen. Note: Numerous wireless communication devices are reported stolen each year. Scholars are advised not to leave devices unattended or unsecured. If you have a wireless communication device or other personal technology at school, and it gets stolen, do not expect school administrators to discontinue other administrative responsibilities to try to recover it for you. School personnel will be asked to investigate and seek recovery only as time and circumstances permit. Notwithstanding, all school policies are applicable to those determined to be responsible for the theft, damage or destruction of such items.

## **VI. SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS**

No scholars, teachers, or proctors are allowed to possess and/or use any wireless communication or personal technology device, including (but not limited to) cell phones or personal digital assistance devices, during the administration of statewide tests. Wireless technology devices used only to administer the tests are excluded. When deemed necessary, the Superintendent may develop additional guidelines or procedures consistent with the letter and spirit of this policy.

All provisions of Jackson Public Schools Board Policy JIAA—Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy, which includes the Scholar Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Contract, are applicable to this policy upon its adoption.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi

DATE: August 18, 2014

REVIEWED: September 18, 2018

April 12, 2022

June 11, 2024

AMENDED: April 19, 2016

May 3, 2022

June 24, 2024