

<b>Descriptor Title:</b>  <b>DCS Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices</b>	<b>Descriptor Code:</b>  IJQ	<b>Adopted Date:</b>  July, 2013
	<b>Reviewed Date:</b>	<b>Revised Date:</b>  December, 2013

**PURPOSE**

DeSoto County Schools provides students access to our wireless network and the option of utilizing personal electronic devices as a means to enhance their education. Electronic devices have become a common means of communication and information access in today’s society. It is also recognized that these devices can become distractions to the academic environment and therefore, negatively impact instruction. The district has created this policy to govern the possession and use of electronic devices on school premises, during school-sponsored or school-related events and on school transportation.

**DEFINITIONS**

Definitions for purposes of this policy:

1. Eligible Students: Students whose parent/guardian signs and agrees to the terms of the district's Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices User Agreement.
2. Electronic Device: An electronic device is defined as any device that a student is in possession of which electronically communicates, sends, receives, stores, reproduces or displays voice and/or text communication or data. These include, but are not limited to cellular phones, pagers, smart phones, music and media players, tablets, laptops, notebooks, netbooks, e-Readers, and iPods. The possession of an electronic device by a student on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related events is a privilege, not a right.
3. Unacceptable Electronic Devices: An unacceptable electronic device includes, but is not limited to, gaming devices or consoles, modems, routers, televisions or accessories.
4. Unauthorized Use: Unauthorized use of personal electronic devices includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Possessing, viewing, sending or sharing video or audio information having sexual, violent or threatening content on school grounds, school events or school buses shall be prohibited and may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the personal device.
  - Transmitting school materials for unethical purposes such as cheating.
  - Any activity which may be in violation of a DeSoto County Schools policy and/or procedural directive.
  - Damaging, or attempting to damage the network, equipment, materials or data physically or electronically.
  - Accessing unauthorized district computers, networks and information systems.
  - Use of any electronic device which disrupts the instructional day.

5. Authorized Use: DeSoto County Schools shall permit student possession of personal electronic devices on all district property and at all district sponsored activities while the student is under the supervision of district staff. These devices shall be kept out of sight and silenced or powered off during the instructional day unless otherwise permitted by district or school procedures.

## **POSSESSION AND USE**

Students may possess and use electronic devices at school subject to the following:

- The student is using the device for an educational or instructional purpose with the teacher's permission and supervision.
- Electronic devices may be used for specific instructional activities at the discretion of the school building administrator.
- Personally owned electronic devices used in school are not permitted to connect to the Internet through a 3G, 4G, or any other content service provider. Personally owned electronic devices must access the Internet via the district's content filtered wireless network.

## **PROHIBITIONS**

Electronic devices shall not be used in any way that violates district policy or that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates school-related individuals, including students, employees, and visitors; or violates local, state, or federal law.

Use of electronic devices on school buses is prohibited.

Electronic devices may not be used during the administration of tests mandated by the Mississippi Assessment System, unless specifically allowed by law.

All notebooks, netbooks, and MacBooks must have antivirus software installed with updates activated, if applicable.

Streaming of any audio or video must be reserved for classroom activities only. Cloud-based music and videos personally owned by a student are not allowed.

Tech support will not be provided for student-owned devices.

## **CONFISCATION**

Students are only allowed to use electronic devices as instructional aids with the teacher's permission and supervision. Unauthorized use of electronic devices disrupts the instructional program and distracts from the learning environment. The building administrator and his/her designee may seize electronic devices if they are used during times not permitted. If a student refuses to give his/her electronic device to the administrator or his/her designee upon request, this will be viewed as insubordination and the appropriate consequence will apply.

## **POTENTIAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

All violations will be subject to the disciplinary actions for possession of electronic equipment/device as listed in School Board Policy JD (Code of Discipline K-12).

A campus administrator, in the exercise of reasonable discretion in response to student misbehavior, abuse of the privilege, or other reasonable cause, may deny or cancel the privilege of possessing an electronic device.

## **SECURITY OF DEVICES**

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of electronic devices brought to school. The school shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or unauthorized calls made with an electronic device. If devices are loaned or borrowed and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).

## **PROHIBITIONS ON AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING**

Camera, video or audio recording functions of electronic devices may pose threats to the personal privacy of individuals, exploit personal information, and/or compromise the integrity of educational programs. Accordingly, the use of the audio recording, video recording or camera functions of electronic devices is strictly prohibited on school premises at all times, unless teacher approval is given for specific instructional activities.