

Hancock County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in September	Descriptor Term: Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)	Descriptor Code: 3.219	Issued Date: 11/10/16
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 An unmanned aircraft system (Drone) means a powered, aerial vehicle that:

- 2 1. Does not carry a human operator and is operated without the possibility of direct human
3 intervention from within or on the aircraft;
- 4
- 5 2. Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;
- 6
- 7 3. Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely; and
- 8
- 9 4. Can be expendable or recoverable.¹

10 **Appropriate Use**

11 Visitors and unsupervised students are prohibited from operating drones on district property. District
12 personnel are authorized to use aerial drones.

13 Staff members, students, coaches, sponsors, or parents representing the district or any of its affiliated
14 clubs shall operate any and all district drones in accordance with this policy and all applicable Federal
15 Aviation laws and regulations such as the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.² This includes
16 any additional certifications or authorizations that may be required from the Federal Aviation
17 Administration based on the drone's intended use.³

18 The following guidelines must be adhered to by anyone flying a drone on district property:

- 19
- 20 1. All drones operating on district property must weigh no more than 55 lbs.
- 21
- 22 2. Operators must not operate a drone within five (5) miles of any airport without prior
23 notification and confirmation from airport authorities.
- 24
- 25 3. Operators must not operate a drone above an altitude of 400 feet above ground level and remain
26 clear of surrounding obstacles.
- 27
- 28 4. Operators must maintain safe control and line of sight with the drone during all stages of
29 operation.
- 30

- 1 5. Operators must maintain a safe operating distance from crowds and ensure drone operations do
2 not interfere with manned aircraft operations.
- 3
- 4 6. Data collected by a drone can only be used for hobby (educational) purposes and may not be
5 sold for profit.
- 6
- 7 7. If there is a plan to fly drones over property that is not owned by the district, the director of
8 schools shall first obtain written permission from the owner of the property at issue. District
9 personnel operating drones on property not owned by the district must adhere to all
10 requirements of this policy.³
- 11
- 12 8. Operators assume all risk of damage to property and bodily injuries that may occur due to
13 unsafe operation of district owned drones.

14 *Inappropriate Use*

15 Inappropriate use of drones includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 16 1. Violating any local, state, or federal statutes or regulations;
- 17
- 18 2. Taking pictures of property or persons without consent;⁴
- 19
- 20 3. Violating safe operating protocols as defined in drone user manual and classroom guidelines;
- 21
- 22 4. Failing to follow a district policy while using the district's drone technology or failing to follow
23 any other policies or guidelines established by district administrators or their designees; and
24
- 25 5. Harassing, defined as persistently annoying of another, interfering with another's work,
26 insulting, or attacking others.

27 *Violations*

28 District staff shall monitor for inappropriate use of district drone technology as defined by this policy.
29 Violators may be subject to disciplinary action, up to an including suspension and/or expulsion for
30 students or suspension and/or termination for employees.

Legal References

1. TCA 39-13-609(b)
2. FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Public Law 112-95 § 336 (112th Congress, 2d session).
3. FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Public Law 112-95 § 333 (112th Congress, 2d session); 14 CFR § 21
4. TCA 39-13-903(a)(3)

Cross References