

## Students

### Electronic Devices

CREC recognizes the advancement of technology and its importance as a component of education, both within the classroom and beyond; and the widespread and routine use of electronic devices. When used inappropriately, electronic devices can disrupt the educational process. Accordingly, CREC limits student use of electronic devices during the school day to ensure that the educational environment is free from distractions and conducive to learning.

For the purpose of this policy, an electronic device is any two-way wireless communication device that is used for storing, playing, transmitting or receiving images, video, or audio files, and games. CREC permits the possession of electronic devices by students at school, on buses, and school-sponsored events, only as follows:

- Students will be permitted to bring and use their own computer (i.e., laptop or tablet) to school to enhance their academic program only with prior permission from the principal/program director or designee. Permission will be granted in cases of academic programming that cannot be accessed with a school device.
- At the discretion of the school or program, cell phones may be permitted on school grounds and at school-sponsored events but may not be used, heard, or displayed during the school day, except: as permitted by the school/program administrator; at the specific request of the classroom teacher; in accordance with a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan; or in consideration of special needs of students and/or their parents. Students and parents will be notified as per school/program practice.
- Unless the principal/program director or designee permits otherwise, during the instructional day all electronic devices shall be silenced and stored in the students' bookbags, backpacks, and/or personal bags. The school day includes, but is not limited to, lunch breaks, recess periods class changes, study halls, and any other structured or non-structured activity that occurs during the school day.
- Audio and/or video recording devices may be used only under the direct supervision of designated staff.
- During periods of testing and other student evaluations, teachers may request that students remove all electronic devices from their possession, either by returning the devices to lockers or placing them outside their direct possession. Except where provided for in a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, any use of an electronic device during testing will be considered cheating and will be addressed accordingly.

Electronic devices shall not be used in an illegal manner or in a way which violates a published CREC policy, including, but not limited to:

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- a. In a locker room or restroom;
- b. In any classroom, except with appropriate permission and under the direct supervision of designated staff;
- c. In any place or situation in which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, without the person's permission;
- d. In order to harass, intimidate, or bully another person.

A student's privately owned technological device may be searched by school/program administrators if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or CREC policies.

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their personal electronic devices. CREC assumes no liability for personal electronic devices that are lost, broken, or stolen.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to discipline. Any act by a student using a personal electronic device that harms CREC's technology resources or otherwise interferes with or compromises the integrity of CREC technology resources will be considered vandalism and will be subject the student to discipline and/or appropriate criminal or civil action.

cf. 5145.5 Sexual Harassment  
5131.911 Bullying  
5144 Student Discipline

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices.

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