

## 3080 Electronic Devices Policy

**Approved:** 20 April 2016

**Rule/Law:** R277-495

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to outline the appropriate use of electronic devices by students.

1. Edith Bowen Laboratory School recognizes the fact that the responsible use of electronic devices in the classroom may be beneficial to a student's education; however, electronic devices can also have the effect of distracting, disrupting and intimidating others in the school setting and leading to opportunities for academic dishonesty and other disruptions of the educational process. In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment and promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, EBLs has established the following rules and guidelines governing student use of electronic devices and procedures to address student misuse.
2. **Definition**
  - a. **Electronic Device:** A privately owned device that is used for audio, video, or text communication or any other type of computer or computer--like instrument which include, but is not limited to, cell-phones, MP3 devices, iPads, tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, laptop computers, eReaders and other electronic or battery powered instruments which transmit voice, text, or data from one person or entity to another. This also includes hands--free devices (Bluetooth) connected to devices listed above.
  - b. **Cyber Bullying:** The use of e-mail, web pages, text messaging, blogs, instant messaging, three-way calling or messaging, or any other electronic means for aggression, intimidation, or harassment against another person.
  - c. **Sexting:** The taking, disseminating, sending, sharing, or possession of sexually explicit messages, photographs, or images by electronic devices.
3. **Implementation**
  - a. Electronic devices may be used during the school day, during school-sponsored activities or transportation as follows:
    - i. Students may have electronic devices in their possession during the regular school day.

- ii. A teacher or school administrator should only authorize the use of electronic devices during a class period or other school activity when it benefits and enhances the students' education.
- iii. Electronic devices must be either turned off or held in a secure place by the teacher, as determined by individual teacher, during class quizzes, tests and standardized assessments, unless specifically allowed by law, an IEP, a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, a Health Care Plan, or testing/assessment directions.
- iv. Students may use an electronic device in an emergency situation that threatens the health, safety or well-being of students (including themselves), school employees or others.
- v. If students intentionally use or respond to electronic devices during instructional time, without teacher permission, the electronic device may be confiscated.

#### **4. Violations**

- a. Students cannot use electronic devices at any time or place for:
  - i. Activities which disrupt the educational environment.
  - ii. Illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations.
  - iii. Unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests.
  - iv. Immoral or pornographic activities, including, but not limited to sexting.
  - v. Activities which threaten, humiliate, harass, or intimidate others.
  - vi. Activities in violation of EBLS policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment.
  - vii. Activities which invade the privacy of others.
  - viii. Activities which constitute bullying or cyber-bullying.
- b. Students found in violation will be sent to administration and are subject to discipline according to established policies and procedures.
- c. Electronic devices used in violation of this policy will be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school's main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student's parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.

#### **5. Other Provisions**

- a. Students bring electronic devices on school property or to school activities at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged electronic equipment.



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- b. Students are strictly responsible for their own electronic devices. If devices are borrowed or taken and misused by non--owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).
- c. Electronic devices inappropriately used or disclosed may be subject to search by school administrators based on reasonable suspicion.