

Policies

Whereas electronic communication devices (ECDs) create classroom disruptions and can lead to inappropriate behavior including bullying and harassment in our schools, this policy is created to minimize the use of such devices thereby limiting distractions and inappropriate activity.

A student may possess an electronic communication device (including but not limited to cellular phones) in school provided that during school hours the device remains turned off. The only exception to this policy is when a teacher asks students to use ECDs for instructional purposes. Students may not use an electronic communication device (ECD) on school property or at a school sponsored activity to access and/or view internet web sites that are otherwise blocked to students at school or take part in any activity prohibited by the District's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) WPS Policy 2300.

Violations of this policy may result in confiscation of the cellular telephone or ECD and disciplinary action. If the cellular telephone or ECD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any disciplinary consequence that is imposed. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g., child pornography).

The student who possesses a cellular telephone or ECD is responsible for its care. Westerly Public Schools are not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to it..

Parents/guardians are to contact the school office to communicate with their child during the school day.

Students may use designated school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

Rules for Confiscating ECDs:

1. If a student is discovered to be using an ECD in violation of District policy, the student will be asked to turn it off and hand it to the staff member (if the student does not comply, s/he will be immediately sent to the office for disciplinary action*).
2. The staff member will not turn on or view the contents of the phone or ECD.
3. The student will be sent to the Principal or designee, who will notify the student of the discipline for violation of school policy concerning ECDs.*

Policies

4. The ECD will be taken to the office where it will be placed in an envelope and sealed.
5. On the envelope, the date and time will be recorded along with the signature of the staff member receiving the ECD.
6. The Principal or designee will determine if there is any suspicion that the ECD has been used in a way that possibly violates state or federal laws and may at his/her discretion turn the device over to local or state authorities for further investigation. If they feel that there is no probable cause, the ECD will be stored at the school until a parent or legal guardian of the student retrieves it.
7. To retrieve the ECD, a parent or legal guardian of the student will need to come to the main office of the school during school hours after the student complies with any disciplinary consequence that is imposed.. The school may ask the person to provide written positive identification and make a copy of the ID for its records.
8. The parent or legal guardian will be given the envelope to open in front of a school official. The parent or legal guardian will then be required to sign and date a receipt for the ECD as evidence of a complete chain of custody. The school will retain the envelope.

*Disciplinary action may include detention, out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

Adopted: May 19, 2010