

Policy for Cell Phones and Camera Devices Stratford Board of Education

ELECTRONIC DEVICES (Cell Phones, Radios, CD Players)

The Stratford Board of Education recognizes the need to provide access to technological resources. It is also sensitive to the desires of parents who wish, for reasons of safety, to provide their children with electronic devices that can ensure direct communication before and after school hours, in times of need. For the purposes of this policy, "Remotely Activated or Activating Communication Devices" are defined to include portable two-way telecommunications devices, including but not limited to cellular telephones with or without cameras, walkie talkies, other hand-held computing devices used as a communication device, any portable electronic device capable of storing and transmitting or receiving images or audio files, such as cameras, as well as any new technology developed for similar purposes.

The Stratford Board of Education extends to students the privilege to possess, display, and use "Remotely Activated or Activating Communication Devices" **before and after the instructional day** provided such "Remotely Activated or Activating Communication Devices" are not displayed, activated, or used **inside school buildings during the instructional day**. All such devices must be turned off and in a locker, purse, or similar enclosure during the instructional day. The instructional day includes, but is not limited to lunch breaks, class changes, study halls, and any other structured or non-structured instructional activity that occurs during the normal school day including school sponsored transportation (i.e. transportation to and from school, field trips to and from school, etc.), as well as extra curricular activities or after school activities, including athletics. Exceptions will be made for students with specific needs that require such devices as per their IEP.

In the event a pupil violates this Policy, the Building Principal or designee (any adult staff member) will confiscate the device and turn it in to the office, where it may be retrieved by the parent or guardian. Repeat violations of this Policy may result in the revoking of the student's privilege for future possession or use of "Remotely Activated or Activating Communication Devices."

In addition to "Remotely Activated or Activating Communication Devices," students are permitted to possess, but not permitted to use, display, or activate such items as electronic signaling devices (beepers), radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorders, DVD players, electronic games, or any other such facsimile, imitation, or replica **during the instructional day**, unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal. These items must be completely turned off and stored in lockers or backpacks upon boarding a bus or arriving at school, until the **instructional day** is over for all students. This prohibition includes any school sponsored transportation, i.e. athletics, field trips to and from school, transportation to and from school, etc. for the full duration of that activity.

An exception to the prohibition may be granted by the supervising adult in the use of "music players" (radios, CD players, tape recorders) during long trips to athletic competitions, or cell phones in an emergency situation on such a trip. **In no case will the use of any personal communication device be allowed that provides for a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.**

The Stratford Board of Education assumes no responsibility in any circumstances whatsoever for the loss, destruction, or theft of any cellular phone, remotely activating paging device or similar device, or other electronic item listed above that is brought to school at any time or to any extra curricular or after school activity.

CAMERA DEVICES

- a. Camera devices may not be used in any unethical or illegal manner.
- b. Camera devices may not be used to photograph another person who has a reasonable expectation of privacy without that person's knowledge and consent.
- c. Camera devices may not be used in a way that would violate another person's copyright.

- d. Camera devices may not be used to harass, intimidate, or bully another person or to invade another person's privacy.
- e. An image taken using a camera device may not be published, broadcast, or transmitted to any other person, by any means, without the knowledge and consent of each person appearing in that image who had a reasonable expectation of privacy at the time the image was recorded, or the person who owns the copyright in the material appearing in that image.

Prohibited Locations

- a. Camera devices may not be used in any classroom without a teacher's or principal's permission that specifies the purpose and duration of the use.
- b. Camera devices may not be used in any locker room, restroom, or any other place where other people have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Replaces Existing Policy dated 4/27/92

Approved by Stratford Board of Education, 9/26/05