



## USE OF PRIVATELY OWNED TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES BY STUDENTS

**The use of privately owned technological devices is not permitted on school property. Torrington Public Schools equips all students with the devices needed to be successful in a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment. Students may bring privately owned cell phones or other wearable technological devices to school with them, subject to the following conditions:**

### **A. Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, "Board Technology Resources" refers to the Board's computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources owned and/or used by the school district and accessible by students, including Yondr pouches.

For the purposes of this policy, "Privately Owned Technological Devices" refers to privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving or storing information or data, etc. Per this policy of the Board of Education, Privately Owned Technological Devices are limited to cell phones, iPads, iPods, tablets and other such devices with internet access not listed where the screen is under 15" in size and wearable technology.

### **B. Use of Cell Phones**

Except to the extent required by a student's Individualized Educational Plan and 504 plan and/or for other reasons approved in writing by the building principal, all students are prohibited from using cell phones during instructional time.

The following rules apply specifically to student use of cell phones and wearable technology during the school day:

**Torrington Middle School:** Students may bring cell phones and wearable technology to school but must ensure that they are turned off or on silent mode and locked in a district issued cell phone pouch throughout the entire school day. Students will lock their cell phone pouches upon entry to the building, and unlock them at dismissal.

**Torrington High School:** Students may bring cell phones and wearable technology to school but must ensure that they are turned off or on silent mode and locked in a district issued cell phone pouch throughout the entire school day. Students will lock their cell phone pouches upon entry into the school building, and unlock them at dismissal. Cell phones will only be allowed if requested by a teacher as necessary for a specific lesson, upon approval by an administrator 24 hours in advance. If approved, the mobile kiosk will be signed out to the teacher for that period or the day. At no time will students be obligated to possess or own a personal electronic device to meet their educational needs.

**Elementary schools:** Students may bring cell phones and wearable technology to school but must turn their cell phones off or place them on silent mode. Cell phones and wearable technology must remain completely out of view (e.g., in the student's backpack) for the entire school day.

**Students at Torrington Middle School, Torrington High School, and all elementary schools are prohibited from using cell phones, wearable technology, and similar devices in the school bathrooms.**

The use of cell phones and wearable technology for an improper purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to Board Technology Resources;
- Damaging Board Technology Resources (including Yondr pouches);
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene or contains pornography;
- Cyber bullying;
- Using such device to violate any school rule, including the unauthorized recording, listening into, streaming, or broadcasting (photo/audio/video) of another individual without the permission of the individual or a school staff member, or
- Taking any action prohibited by any Federal or State law.

### **C. Search of Cell Phones and Wearable Technology**

A student's cell phone and wearable technology may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Any such search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

## **D. Responsibility for Cell Phones and Wearable Technology**

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their cell phones. If a cell phone and other wearable technology is stolen, lost, or damaged, a report should be made to the building principal or designee, who will investigate the loss in a manner consistent with procedures for stolen or damaged personal property. Students and parents should be aware that the Board is not liable for any cell phone and other wearable technology that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school or during a school- sponsored activity. For that reason, students are advised not to share their cell phones and other wearable technology with other students.

## **E. Disciplinary Action**

Misuse of the Board's Technology Resources, the use of cell phones and wearable technology to access or utilize the Board's Technology Resources in an inappropriate or prohibited manner, and/or the use of such devices in any manner inconsistent with this policy will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. A violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Board's policies related to student discipline.

1. First Offense: The administrator or designee takes the cell phone and/or wearable technology and holds it until the end of the school day.
2. Second Offense: The administrator or designee takes the cell phone and/or wearable technology and contacts the parent/guardian to discuss the incident and to schedule the retrieval of the phone.
3. Third Offense: The student will receive a 1 day In-School Suspension (ISS) and the phone and/or wearable technology will be retrieved by the parent/guardian.
4. An accumulation of disciplinary infractions, including those related to cell phone misuse and defiance, may lead to suspension or possible expulsion if chronic non-compliance is evident.

\*\*There will be documentation of a phone call, email or text notification to the parent/guardian regarding each infraction noted above.

In the event a student improperly uses a cell phone (e.g., by engaging in cyberbullying, threatening or harassing behavior; using a cell phone to access obscene or pornographic material; using a cell phone to invade the privacy rights of others; or similar infraction), the administration may decline to follow the Tiers of Discipline for Cell Phone Violations and pursue discipline in accordance with the Board's discipline policy.

## **F. Access to Board Technology Resources**

Through the publication and dissemination of this policy statement and others related to use of the Board's Technology Resources, as well as other instructional means, the Board educates students about the Board's expectations for technology users.

Board Technology Resources shall only be used to access educational information and to promote learning activities both at home and at school. The Board considers access to its technology resources to be a privilege and not a right. Students are expected to act at all times appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws when using the Board Technology Resources. Failure to do so will result in the consequences outlined herein and in other applicable policies (including, but not limited to, the Safe School Climate Plan, the Student Discipline Policy and the Use of Computers Policy).

Students must abide by the procedures outlined in this policy and all policies and applicable regulations outlined in the Board's computer use and other applicable policies. Students will be given specific information for log-on and access procedures using school accounts. No user may deviate from these log- on/access procedures. **Students are advised that the Board's network administrators have the capability to identify users and to monitor all devices while they are logged on to the network.** Students must understand that the Board has reserved the right to conduct monitoring of Board Technology Resources and can do so *despite* the assignment to individual users of passwords for system security. Any password systems implemented by the Board are designed solely to provide system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user. The system's security aspects, message delete function and personal passwords can be bypassed for monitoring purposes. Therefore, students should be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of cell phones to access Board Technology Resources.

## **G. Harm to Board Technology Resources**

Any act by a student using a cell phone that harms the Board's Technology Resources or otherwise interferes with or compromises the integrity of Board Technology Resources, including Yondr pouches, will be considered vandalism and will be subject to discipline and/or appropriate criminal or civil action.

## **H. Closed Forum**

This policy shall not be construed to establish a public forum or a limited open forum.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-220, 10-221

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a-250

Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

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