

GBEF © USE OF PORTABLE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

Social Media

Social media is the use of web-based and mobile technologies to communicate through interactive dialogue. Social media technologies/platforms include social networking sites, blogs, microblogs, content communities and virtual communities, and any successor protocol to transmit information.

Mobile Technologies

Mobile technologies are any devices that: transmit sounds, images, texts, messages, videos, or electronic information; electronically records, plays, or stores information; or accesses the Internet, or private communication or information networks.

Guidelines

The Governing Board requires all employees to use wireless communication devices in a professional manner at all times and to follow all applicable state and federal laws.

The Board establishes the following parameters:

District employees:

1. shall adhere to all Governing Board policies related to technologies including but not limited to the use of District technology, copyright laws, student rights, parent rights, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Child Internet Protection Act, staff ethics, and staff-student relations;
2. are responsible for the content of their posting on any form of technology through any form of communication;
3. shall only use District controlled and approved technologies when communicating with students or parents;
4. shall ensure that technologies used to communicate with students and District staff are maintained separate from personal technologies used to communicate with others;
5. shall not use District owned or provided technologies to endorse or promote a product, a cause or a political position or candidate;
6. in all instances must be aware of his/her association with the District and ensure the related content of any posting is consistent with how they wish to present themselves to colleagues, community members, parents and students;
7. shall not use District logos or District intellectual property without the written approval of the Superintendent;
8. shall use technologies to enhance and add value to communications with all recipients and be respectful of those with whom they communicate;

9. shall immediately report all misuse or suspected misuse of technology to their direct supervisor/administrator who in turn will immediately report to the Superintendent;

10. shall comply with all applicable records management parameters established by Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

Operating a Portable Wireless Communication Device While Driving

Arizona law (A.R.S. 28-914, effective January 1, 2021), states that a person may not operate a motor vehicle on a street or highway if the person does either of the following:

A. physically holds or supports with any part of the person's body either of the following:

1. portable wireless communication device, except that a person may use a portable wireless communication device with an earpiece, headphone device or device worn on a wrist to conduct a voice-based communication.

2. a stand-alone electronic device.

B. writes, sends or reads any text-based communication, including a text message, instant message, e-mail or Internet data, on a portable wireless communication device or stand-alone electronic device.

This does not apply to either of the following:

A. the use of voice-based communications, including through the use of a portable wireless communication device or stand-alone electronic device, to direct the writing, sending, reading or other communicating of any text-based communication.

B. the use of a portable wireless communication device or stand-alone device when used in a hands-free manner for:

1. navigation of the motor vehicle.

2. use of a global positioning system.

3. obtaining motor vehicle information or information related to driving a motor vehicle.

This also does not prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle while using a device, including a device that is accessible through an interface that is embedded in a motor vehicle, that allows communication without the use of either of the driver's hands, except to activate or deactivate a function of the device.

An operator may use a portable wireless communication device:

A. to report illegal activity or summon emergency help.

B. that was permanently or temporarily affixed to the motor vehicle to relay information in the course of the operator's occupational duties between the operator and either: i) a dispatcher, ii) a digital network or software application service.

Definitions

Portable wireless communication device:

A. means a cellular telephone, a portable telephone, a text-messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a stand-alone computer, a global positioning system receiver or a substantially similar portable wireless device that is used to initiate or receive communication, information or data.

B. does not include a radio, citizens band radio, citizens band radio hybrid, commercial two-way radio communication device or its functional equivalent, subscription-based emergency communication device, prescribed medical device, amateur or ham radio device or in-vehicle security, navigation or remote diagnostics system.

Stand-alone electronic device:

means a portable device other than a portable wireless communication device that stores audio or video data files to be retrieved on demand by a user.

Communication

The Superintendent shall communicate the above to all employees of the District at the beginning of each school year and to newly hired employees as part of the hiring process.

The Superintendent shall establish which technologies are approved for use by employees to communicate with parents and students. Approved technologies shall be communicated to the Board and employees prior to the start of every school year, to newly elected Board members prior to taking office, and to newly hired employees as part of the hiring process.

The Superintendent shall determine which records retention and management guidelines as established by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records are applicable to this Board policy and communicate these guidelines to the Board and employees prior to the start of every school year, to newly elected Board members prior to taking office, and newly hired employees as part of the hiring process.

Violations

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination and may constitute a violation of federal or state law in which case appropriate law enforcement shall be notified. The Superintendent shall report violations of this policy to the Board and shall make reports to the appropriate law enforcement agency when determined necessary.

Adopted: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

LEGAL REF.:

A.R.S.

15-341

15-514

28-914

28-963

28-3164

20 U.S.C. 1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

47 CFR 54.520 Child Internet Protection Act

CROSS REF.:

EEAE - Bus Safety and Student Conduct

EEAEA - Bus Driver Requirements, Training, and Responsibilities

EEA - Student Transportation

EEB - Business and Personnel Transportation Services and Records and Reports

GBEA - Ethics and Code of Conduct

GBEBB - Conduct With Students

GCQF - Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal

IJNDB - Use of Technology Resources in Instruction

JIC - Student Conduct