

# **Acceptable Use of Electronic Communications System Policy**

## **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources**

### **Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones, and Other Electronic Devices**

Priority Charter Schools permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes; however, these devices **must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing**, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes.

A student must also have approval to possess other telecommunications devices at school, such as netbooks, laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

Students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices (such as MP3 players, video or audio records, DVD players, cameras, games, or similar electronic devices) at school unless prior permission has been obtained. Without such permission, school staff will collect the items and turn them in to the Principal's office. The Principal will determine whether to return the item(s) to students at the end of the day or contact a parent to pick up the item(s).

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in restroom areas or other sensitive areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

If a student uses a telecommunications device (such as a cell phone) without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. If a student and parent have executed a waiver permitting the student to possess an electronic communication device at school, school officials may power on and search the device if there is a reasonable cause to believe that the device has been used in the transmission or reception of communications prohibited by law, policy, or regulation. A confiscated device may be picked up from the Principal's office for a fee of \$15. Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or a parent will be disposed of after the notice required by law.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Priority Charter Schools will not be responsible for damage to or loss or theft of confiscated personal devices.

### **Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices**

In some cases, students may find it beneficial or might be encouraged to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional use. When students are not using the devices for approved instructional purposes, all devices must be turned off during the instructional day. Violations may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Priority Charter Schools is not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen personal devices.

### **Acceptable Use of Technology Resources**

School-owned technology resources for instructional purposes may be issued to individual students. Use of these technological resources, which include Priority Charter Schools' network systems and use of school equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement Acknowledgment Form regarding use of these school resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child the [\*"Before You Text: Sexting & Bullying Prevention, Education & Intervention 27 Course,"\*](#) a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of Priority Charter Schools' computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.