

SUGGESTED STUDENT DISCIPLINE RULES (Short Version)¹
Student Misuse of Electronic Communication Devices in
Junior High and High Schools

Center for Education Policy and Law • University of San Diego
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We recognize that electronic communication devices are an important part of our everyday world and are increasingly being used in teaching and learning. However, we do not want these devices to interfere with the students' learning environment. Please read the following discipline rules with your student and return the form with your signatures. Thank you.

1. Students must follow school rules when using any of the following electronic communication devices (ECDs):
 - Cell phones
 - Computers
 - Pagers
 - Portable game units
 - Other mechanisms that enable users to communicate electronically person-to-person or through internet social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter.

2. School rules apply when students are at school or attending a school-sponsored or related activity off-campus. They apply when students are:
 - Attending class
 - Socializing in hallways and elsewhere on school grounds
 - Using school media centers, restrooms, locker rooms, gyms, and other school facilities
 - Going to and from school
 - Eating lunch on or off campus
 - Attending school-sponsored activities off campus, such as field trips, dances
 - Attending school-related activities off campus, such as football away games

3. The following will result in student discipline at any of the above activities.
 - Refusal to turn off an ECD when told to by a teacher, administrator, coach, counselor, or other school official
 - Damaging an ECD owned by the school

¹ Note: These rules are developed in the context of federal and California law. Whether they are appropriate for other states depends upon the law in those states. It may be appropriate to have both teachers and students review these rules to see if they are understandable or should be reworded to make them so. These rules are suggestive only and are not intended to take the place of expert advice and assistance from a lawyer. If specific legal advice or assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

- Causing disruption
 - Using an ECD to cheat, including getting and giving answers to tests and copying from the internet
 - Using an ECD to bully, threaten, harass, or attack another student or school personnel whether or not communicated directly to that person
 - Sending (or asking to receive) pictures or videos of people who are partially or completely undressed, or are pretending to or actually performing a sexual act
4. Additionally, the school may punish students who misuse ECDs away from school on their own time if both of the following are true:
- The student's use of the ECD causes significant disruption at school or serious harm to the school, other students, or school personnel
 - The student knew, or should have known, that the harm would happen
5. When a student misuses an ECD, the school may do the following, as long as the severity of the school's action matches the seriousness of the student's misuse of the ECD:
- Search the ECD within the context of the alleged misuse
 - Warn the student, verbally or in writing
 - Take away the ECD. Depending upon the offense, the school may keep the ECD for the rest of the school day or longer
 - Deny the student the privilege of participating in extracurricular and athletic activities
 - Contact the student's parents, school security, or the police
 - Suspend or expel the student from school in accord with student discipline procedures

I have received a copy of these Student Discipline Rules governing my use of electronic communication devices (ECDs). I understand that failure to follow these rules may result in discipline and affect my right to use ECDs while at school and at school-sponsored or related activities both on and off campus.

Name of Student (print)

Date

Signature

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Please return this form to the school office no later than _____.