

**Board of Education  
Las Cruces Public Schools**

**Regulation JICJ**

**Related Entries:** JICJ, EJA, EJA-R  
**Responsible Office:** Associate Superintendent for Instruction

**USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION  
DEVICES BY STUDENTS**

**I. PURPOSE**

To implement the policy of the LCPS Board of Education with regard to the use of all electronic communication devices (ECDs) by all LCPS students.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. *Electronic communication devices* (ECDs) include, but are not limited to, cellular telephones, paging devices, beepers, personal digital assistants [PDAs] and other devices designed to receive and send an electronic signal).
- B. *Turned off* means that a cell phone or other ECD is switched completely off and is not simply set on silent or vibrate mode.

**III. GUIDELINES**

- A. This regulation replaces all other language, directives or school practices that reference cell phone usage.
- B. Students shall be permitted to possess a cell phone or other ECD in school, on school property, at after-school activities and at school-related functions. Certain restricting will apply based on the following grade levels:

**Elementary School Students**

- 1. During the school day, elementary school students shall be allowed to use cell phones or other ECDs in school and on school property **ONLY**  
  
Before classes begin in the morning and after classes end in the afternoon.
- 2. Cell phones or other ECDs may not be used during recess or lunch periods.
- 3. During school activities and athletic events, when directed by the coach, administrator or sponsor, cell phones and other ECDs shall be turned off and stored out of site.
- 4. The use of built-in cameras in cell phones and other ECDs is prohibited in locker rooms, and/or school restrooms at all times.

5. Students may not use cell phones or other ECDs on any school property to access or view Internet web sites that are intentionally blocked to students on school property or are otherwise deemed unacceptable for students, as per LCPS Policy EJA, Acceptable Use of Technology Resources.

### **Middle School Students**

1. During the school day, middle school students shall be allowed to use cell phones or other ECDs in school and on school property ONLY
  - a. Before classes begin in the morning and after classes end in the afternoon;
  - b. During regularly scheduled lunch periods.
2. Cell phones or other ECDs may not be used during passing periods or between classes.
3. It shall be the student's responsibility to ensure that the cell phone is turned off when he or she enters the first class of the day.
4. During school activities and athletic events, when directed by the coach, administrator or sponsor, cell phones and other ECDs shall be turned off and stored out of site.
5. The use of built-in cameras in cell phones and other ECDs is prohibited in locker rooms, and/or school restrooms at all times.
6. Students may not use cell phones or other ECDs on any school property to access or view Internet web sites that are intentionally blocked to students on school property or are otherwise deemed unacceptable for students, as per LCPS Policy EJA, Acceptable Use of Technology Resources.

### **High School Students**

1. During the school day, high school students shall be allowed to use cell phones or other ECDs in school and on school property ONLY
  - a. Before classes begin in the morning and after classes end in the afternoon;
  - b. During regularly scheduled lunch periods; and
  - c. During passing periods between classes.
2. It shall be the student's responsibility to ensure that the cell phone is turned off when he or she enters each class period of the day and after each passing period.

3. During school activities and athletic events, when directed by the coach, administrator or sponsor, cell phones and other ECDs shall be turned off and stored out of site.
  4. The use of built-in cameras in cell phones and other ECDs is prohibited in locker rooms, and/or school restrooms at all times.
  5. Students may not use cell phones or other ECDs on any school property to access or view Internet web sites that are intentionally blocked to students on school property or are otherwise deemed unacceptable for students. (see LCPS Policy EJA, Acceptable Use of Technology Resources)
- C. The requirement that cell phones and other ECDs be turned off shall not apply in the following circumstances when the student has obtained prior approval from his or her school principal. (The ECD must remain in a silent or vibrate mode during class.)
1. The student is a member of a volunteer fire company/department, ambulance or rescue squad. Documentation from the appropriate agency must verify a student's membership.
  2. The student has a special medical circumstance (e.g., his or her own special medical condition, or an ill family member). Documentation from a physician or parent must verify the illness.
- D. Students who meet the criteria as outlined above in section "C" for allowable uses must notify the school principal and present appropriate documentation. The principal must also notify the student's teacher(s) of such approval.
- E. A student may use a cell phone, laptop or other ECD for an educational or instructional purpose during class time with his or her instructor's permission and supervision. Laptop and desktop computers and similar equipment are for educational purposes only.
- F. Any student who possesses a cell phone or ECD is responsible for its care. The school district is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage or vandalism to cell phones and ECDs brought onto school property.

#### **IV. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

- A. Each school principal or his/her designee shall monitor student violations of the cell phone and ECD use policy and regulations.
- B. Penalties for students found to be in violation of the cell phone and ECD use policy or regulation shall be as follows:

1. First offense: The student's cell phone or other ECD shall be confiscated by the classroom teacher and returned by the teacher to the student at the end of the class period.
2. Second offense: The student's cell phone or other ECD shall be confiscated and retrieved by the student from the school principal or designee at the end of the school day.
3. Third offense: The student's cell phone or other ECD shall be confiscated and retrieved only by the student's parent or guardian from the school principal or designee.
4. Fourth and additional offenses: Students committing repeat violations of the cell phone and ECD use policy or regulation shall be subject to additional disciplinary actions. At the discretion of the school principal, the student may be prohibited from bringing a cell phone or other ECDs to school for the remainder of the school year.
5. The school principal or designee may refer violations of the cell phone/ECD use policy to appropriate law enforcement officials if the violation involves potentially illegal activity. Further, the principal or designee may impose sanctions against any student who violates state or federal law or school district policy, including, but not limited to, Board policies against bullying and harassment of students by use of a cell phone or other electronic means, to include participation in social networks. Said sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a ban on the student's use of a cell phone while the student is on school property, which may, at the discretion of the principal or designee, include the confiscation and safeguarding of the cell phone during school hours.

**V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This regulation shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

*History:* New regulation; adopted 12.15.09; revised 04.23.10



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*Associate Superintendent for Instruction*

April 23, 2010

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*Date Approved*