

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School
Policy S9: Acceptable Use of Technology
Adopted: September 17, 2020

I. Electronic Communication Device Defined

For the purposes of this Policy, the term “electronic communication device” shall be defined as follows: an electronic device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise operates to summon or deliver a communication to the holder.

For the purposes of this Policy, the term “electronic communication device” shall include, but not be limited to, pagers, cell-phones, smart-phones, or personal digital assistants (PDAs).

II. Limited Use of Electronic communication devices Permitted

- A.** Students are only permitted to use electronic communication devices before the beginning of and after the end of the school day and during lunch period.
- B.** Students are prohibited from using electronic communication devices during classroom instructional time or between class periods. All electronic communication devices shall be turned-off during classroom instructional time and between class periods. Students shall not have electronic communication device ringers on silent or vibrate alert during classroom instruction time.
- C.** Students are prohibited from using electronic communication devices in any way which, in the discretion of a school principal or his or her designee, poses a safety hazard or otherwise interferes with the educational mission of a school.
- D.** Students are prohibited from using an electronic communication device in connection with bullying, as defined by Board policy or state law. Such use of an electronic communication device may subject a student to disciplinary action as set forth in the District’s discipline policy.
- E.** Electronic communication devices are not permitted to be visible on a student’s person during instructional time or between class periods.
- F.** No student shall photograph, videotape, record or reproduce, via any audio or video means, another student or staff member while on school premises.
- G.** Southwest Georgia Stem Charter School shall not assume responsibility or liability for damage to, theft or loss of an electronic communication device.
- H.** Southwest Georgia Stem Charter School shall not assume responsibility for the unauthorized use of an electronic communication device.
- I.** Each administrator or their designee is authorized to provide for exceptions to this policy such as in the case of medical emergencies or other extenuating circumstances. Such exception shall be documented in writing and placed in the student’s file.

III. Acceptable Internet Usage.

- A. Students shall receive education about the following:

1. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
 2. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information;
 3. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking") cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online, and unauthorized disclosure, use, and
- B.** All Internet users (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying procedures.
- C.** Students and staff members are responsible for good behavior on the school's computers/network and the Internet just as they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply.
- D.** Students shall not access social media for personal use from the school's network, but shall be permitted to access social media for educational use in accordance with their teacher's approved plan for such use.
- E.** Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying procedures may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them.