Title: **REPLACEMENT POLICY - SPRING 2026 - WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES (WCDs)**
Code: 5136 BP
Section: Board Policies
Section: Spring 2026 - NCSI - BP Update

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES (WCDs)

References:
M.C.L. 380.1303a (Public Act 2 of 2026)

Students are prohibited from using a wireless communications device ("WCD") on academy grounds during instructional time. A WCD is an electronic device capable of, but not limited to, text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the internet, sending and receiving photos and videos, or producing email. A WCD does not include a basic telephone, which is a device primarily used for voice calling that cannot support third-party applications, except those preinstalled, and does not support access to internet platforms via applications or web browsers.

For purposes of this policy, academy grounds means a building, playing field, or property used for school purposes to impart instruction to children or used for functions and events sponsored by the academy. Academy grounds does not include a building used primarily for adult education or college extension courses. The prohibition on WCD use does not apply to the following:

A. Medically necessary devices.

B. Academy-owned devices including, but not limited to, academy-issued tablets and laptops.

C. Devices designated by the Academy to be used for instructional purposes.

D. Devices used for special education programming or devices provided as an accommodation to students as required under Section 504 of Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, or as part of an individualized education plan under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 to 12165.

E. Lesson-specific academic assignments, at the limited and direct discretion of a classroom teacher.

F. Emergency situations. Use of a WCD under this exemption must not interfere with academy emergency protocols or the actions of first responders, and must not endanger students or faculty. A protocol for when and how pupils

are permitted to use wireless communications devices during an emergency is included in the Academy's Emergency Operations Plan (Policy 8402).

Students who violate this policy by using a WCD on academy grounds during instructional time will be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

WCDs and any other communication devices, including, but not limited to, those with cameras, may not be activated or utilized at any time in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include, but are not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, locker rooms, shower facilities, rest/bathrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where use of a WCD is absolutely prohibited.

Students' expectation of confidentiality with respect to their use of WCDs on academy premises/property/internet/WIFI will comply with administrative authorization in alignment with Board Policy 5771 - Search and Seizure.

Students may not use a WCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed, or intimidated. See Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior. In particular, students are prohibited from using WCDs to: (1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, or political beliefs; and (2) engage in "sexting" - i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, e-mails or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.

Students are also prohibited from using a WCD to capture, record, and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using WCDs to receive such information.

A copy of the Academy's Wireless Communications Devices policy shall be posted on the Academy's website.

© National Charter School Institute
Adopted: **June 26, 2019**