



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY BULLETIN**

TITLE: Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices by Students

NUMBER: BUL-5468.0

ISSUER: Michelle King, Deputy Superintendent, School Operations Office of the Superintendent

DATE: May 4, 2011

ROUTING
 Local District Superintendents
 Local District Operations Coordinators
 School Site Administrators
 All School Site Employees

POLICY: California Education Code, Section 48901.5 permits *“the governing board of each school district, or its designee, to regulate the possession of any electronic signaling device that operates thorough the transmission or receipt of radio waves, including, but not limited to, paging and signaling equipment, by pupils of school districts while pupils are on campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of school district employees.”*

It is the policy of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to prohibit the use of cellular phones, pagers, or any electronic signaling device by students on campus during normal school hours or school activities, excluding the students’ lunchtime or nutrition breaks unless the school site council has adopted a stricter policy.

MAJOR CHANGES: This bulletin updates BUL-2576.1 to address the use of cellular phones on school grounds.

GUIDELINES: The following guidelines apply.

Definition: Paging and signaling equipment devices covered by this policy include, but are not limited to, cellular telephones with or without text messaging, pagers, camera phones, smartphones, and Personal Digital Assistants (PDA).

General Guidelines:

- Students are permitted to possess cellular phones, pagers, or electronic signaling devices on campus provided that any such device remains “off” and stored in a locker, backpack, purse, pocket, or other place where it is not visible during normal school hours, or school activities.
- Students are only permitted to use cellular phones, pagers, or electronic signaling devices on campus before and after school, excluding the students’ lunchtime or nutrition breaks unless the school site council has adopted a stricter policy.
- Students must comply anytime a request is made by school personnel to cease the use of a cellular telephone, pager, or other electronic signaling device even before or after school.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY BULLETIN

- If such a device is observed by staff, during school hours or activities, it shall be confiscated until redeemed by a parent/guardian/caregiver or as determined by the school principal/designee.
- An exception to this policy may be granted by the site administrator for purposes relating to the health needs of a student.
- Students and parents are to be advised of this prohibition annually, and are to be advised that the District is not responsible for students' lost or stolen cell phones or pagers.
- The site administrator, with the school site council, could establish and enforce a stricter policy. If so, students and parents are to be advised of the stricter policy annually.

Staff Responsibility for Confiscated Cellular Phones or Pagers

- District employees who take actual possession of any personal property of a student, with the intention of returning it at a later time, have the responsibility to ensure that the property is placed in a properly secured and locked location.
- Placing the item on top of or inside an unlocked desk or cabinet is not considered "a properly secured and locked location."
- Schools are to establish a procedure whereby staff can turn in confiscated personal property of students and the property is placed in a secured and locked location. A log noting an accurate description of the device should be maintained of items placed in or removed from the secured and locked location. Access should be limited to an administrator or designee.

Safety Precautions: It should be noted that cellular telephones transmit Radio Frequency (RF) waves, and should NEVER be used, or turned ON during the situations delineated below. The safety precautions below also apply to any two-way radio, pager, palm-top or lap-top devices that transmit RF waves.

- During a response to a bomb threat. The transmitted RF waves may, if used within 500 feet of an explosive device, cause it to detonate.
- In explosive atmospheres, such as a gasoline pump/station. The transmitted RF waves may cause a spark that could cause an explosion.
- Near any explosive blasting caps. The transmitted RF waves if used within 500



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY BULLETIN

feet of a blasting cap may trigger it and cause an explosion.

AUTHORITY: This is a policy of the Board of Education.

ASSISTANCE: For assistance please contact your Local District Operations Coordinator. For further information, please call School Operations at (213) 241-5337.