

Student Cell Phone and Recreational Electronic Devices Policy

The De Soto Area School District has determined that cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices have limited or no educational value and their use may create a distraction to the learning environment. Student possession of cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices in the De Soto Area School District is only allowable subject to the following rules and regulations. Strict adherence to these rules and regulations is required. Additionally, the District restricts the use of other communication devices (i.e. two-way radios, pagers, PDA's and laptops with two-way messaging capabilities) by students. The De Soto Area School District reserves the right to define the educational value of any new electronic wireless devices that may become available in the future and to prohibit their use if they have no educational value or if such use creates learner distraction or disruption.

Possession of cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices may be forfeited by not abiding by the terms of this policy. Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices. De Soto Area School District shall not assume any responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of any cell phone, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices or for unauthorized calls made on a cell phone.

Use of Cell Phones, Radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices on School Grounds

Student use/possession of a cell phone, radio, CD player, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic device depends on the grade level of the student. The following categories outline the grade levels and authorized use/possession of cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices by students:

Elementary Schools, Pre-k – 5th grade: Student use of cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices are prohibited on school property. Communication with parents/guardians will be facilitated through the main office of the appropriate elementary school.

Middle/High School, 6th – 12th grade: Students may use cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices before and after school, as long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption. Use of cell phones during the academic day is prohibited and they will be powered completely off, concealed, and secured in lockers. Cell phones are strictly prohibited in classrooms, locker rooms, restrooms, and shower facilities. Communication with parents/guardians will be facilitated through the Middle/High School office.

Radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices may be allowed during school hours at the discretion of the supervising teacher of the study hall. If such items create a distraction or a disruption the consequences for inappropriate usage will be enforced. If a student becomes belligerent or offensive with the supervising teacher at any level of offense, the level will automatically be advanced to the next higher level.

Camera or Picture Phones and other personal recording devices: Because of the threat to privacy and the integrity of the educational program, the use of a camera or picture phone and other personal recording

devices are subject to the following rule: the use of any personal recording device or a camera function of a cell phone is strictly prohibited on school premises during school hours. Violation of this provision will cause the revocation of all cell phone usage for that student for the rest of the school year. **Violation of this provision will result in confiscation of the phone and immediately raise to a level 4 consequence.**

Consequences for Inappropriate usage of a Student's Cell Phone or radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices may include but is not limited to the following:

- 1st offense: Item is confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day with a warning and a copy of this policy.
- 2nd offense: Item is confiscated and returned to the parent/Guardian with a copy of this policy.
- 3rd offense: Item is confiscated and returned to the parent/Guardian with a copy of this policy and the student will lose all privileges to use or possess any cell phone, radio, CD player, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices for the remainder of the school year.
- 4th offense: Item is confiscated for the remainder of the year or until requested by the parent/Guardian at the next scheduled school Board meeting.

If a student or parent/guardian becomes belligerent or offensive with school personnel at any level of offense, the level will automatically be advanced to the next higher level. If the level of belligerence becomes abusive and/or disruptive, the item will remain confiscated and the incident will be reported to the Vernon County Sheriff's Department for possible legal action.

APPROVED: September 26, 2005

REVISED: March 12, 2007

DE SOTO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

443.5

STUDENT USE OF CELL PHONES
AND RECREATIONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The De Soto Area School District has determined that cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices have limited or no educational value and their use may create a distraction to the learning environment. Student possession of such devices is only allowable subject to the following criteria:

- Elementary Schools (Pre-K - fifth grade): Student use/possession of cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices is prohibited on school property. Communication with parents/guardians will be facilitated through the main office of the appropriate elementary school.
- Middle/High School (sixth - 12th grade): Students may use cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational

electronic devices before and after school, as long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption.

Cell phones - Use of cell phones during the academic day is prohibited and they will be powered completely off, concealed, and secured in lockers. Cell phones are strictly prohibited in classrooms, locker rooms, restrooms, and shower facilities. Communication with parents/guardians will be facilitated through the Middle/High School office.

Radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices - Use of such devices may be allowed during school hours at the discretion of the supervising teacher of the study hall. If such items create a distraction or a disruption, the consequences for inappropriate usage will be enforced.

Camera or Picture Phones and other personal recording devices - Because of the threat to privacy and the integrity of the educational program, the use of any personal recording device or a camera function of a cell phone is strictly prohibited on school premises during school hours. **{NOTE: You may wish to consider whether this would be relevant before and after school as well - for example, would camera phones be prohibited during co-curricular activities (e.g. in locker rooms)?}**

Additionally, the District restricts the use of other communication devices (i.e. two-way radios, pagers, PDA's and laptops with two-way messaging capabilities) by students. The District reserves the right to define the educational value of any new electronic wireless devices that may become available in the future and to prohibit their use if they have no educational value or if such use creates learner distraction or disruption.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices. The District shall not assume any responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of any such devices or for unauthorized calls made on a cell phone.

Strict adherence to this policy is required.

Possession of cell phones, radios, CD players, handheld electronic games, and other recreational electronic devices may be forfeited by not abiding by the terms of this policy.

CROSS REF.: 443.5-Rule, Student Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy
Enforcement Procedures

APPROVED: September 26, 2005

REVISED:

NOTE: This policy was found in your district's current policy manual (no code - approved 9/26/05). I revised it for stylistic reasons, separating the disciplinary procedures from the policy, and as outlined above. (WASB - 11/06)