

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING BOARD MEETINGS

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Intent

This policy outlines:

- Use of electronic devices by Board Members, staff, media, and the general public during Board of Education meetings.
- Board Member access to Orange County Schools' (OCS) Wide Area Network.

The policy applies to Board of Education meetings held in Orange County Schools' facilities equipped with in-place, usable Internet Protocol networks such as in the Central Office Boardroom. Board of Education meetings held in other venues with in-place Internet connectivity, such as Hillsborough's Battle Courtroom, are also included in this policy.

Cellular telephones

All persons present at Board of Education meetings will place their cellular devices in silent and/or vibrate mode (no ringing of any kind). During meetings, these devices will be used only for emergency purposes and if used, the party called/calling will exit the meeting room for conversation. Text messaging by Board members and staff during meetings is not allowed.

Electronic and Internet enabled devices

The Board recognizes that the wealth of pertinent information on the Internet can provide benefits to discussion and decision making. To that end, Board Members will have access to the Internet through the Orange County Schools' intranet, as available. During Board of Education meetings, Board Members, staff, and others may use laptop computers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), or other web-enabled devices in the "silent" mode. Uses of any ad hoc connections, such as Bluetooth, Infrared Link, and instant messaging (IM) are not permissible as they could constitute a violation of Open Meeting laws if information is passed between members.

Board members will ensure that:

- Professional courtesy for each other, staff, and the public is paramount in the use of electronic devices.
- Uses of electronic devices do not distract from Board deliberations or interaction between Board Members.

There may be occasions to restrict use of electronic devices during Board meetings. In such a case, the Chairperson will call for a vote to restrict such use and a simple majority will prevail.

Access and Authentication for Orange County Schools networks and devices

Board members will be provided Internet access, to comply with Acceptable Use standards as set forth in Orange County Board of Education Policy #7320 (Employee Internet Access and Electronic Mail).

Members are expected to fully abide with all Internet provisions of the Board of Education Policy # 7320.