

**PORTABLE  
COMMUNICATION DEVICES  
(PCD)**

*Date Reviewed/Approved: 05/19/2008    Policy Number: 4317*

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*Rescinds Policy Number:*

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The Orange County Board of Education has as its highest priority a strong commitment to preserving an atmosphere that enhances the learning process in schools. Therefore, to avoid disruption to instruction, the use of electronic devices, including, but not limited to cellular telephones, pagers, and other portable communication devices (PCDs) are allowed only with the restrictions outlined below.

- A. Students in elementary schools are not allowed to possess cellular telephones or other PCDs on any school site except for health or other unusual reasons approved on an individual basis by the school principal and subject to regulations developed by the Superintendent.
- B. The use or possession of cellular telephones and other PCDs is a privilege the board extends to high school and middle school students only before and after the official school day subject to regulations developed by the Superintendent. The school day for middle school is defined as the hours between 8:20 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. High school hours are between 8:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Middle/high school students are allowed to use cellular phones for athletic events and after school events; i.e., dances. PCDs will be prohibited during the school day.
- C. During the school day, all devices must be out of sight and inactivated.
- D. Students violating this policy and the associated regulations shall be deemed to have created a disruption to the instructional environment and are subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Please see OCS Code of Student Conduct, Rule # 11.
- E. Staff members and visitors shall turn off the audible notification on their cell phones and pagers during the school day when they are supervising students or participating in an activity with students. School bus drivers may not use a cellular phone while operating a school bus.
- F. Students must insure that all cellular phones remain turned off and not visible when being transported to and from home by district owned vehicles; i.e., school buses. The school bus is viewed as an extension of the school and therefore, all regulations apply.
- G. Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cellular telephones and other PCDs. The Orange County Board of Education shall not assume responsibility or liability for the theft, loss or damage to a student's cellular telephone or other PCD's and does not assume responsibility for the unauthorized use of any device.
- H. Using portable communication devices to reproduce images of tests, to access unauthorized school information or to assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, district or school code of conduct.
- I. Using cellular telephones or other devices with photographic capabilities in student locker-rooms, restrooms or any other student changing areas, at any time is prohibited.

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action against the student that may result in confiscation of the device, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension.

- A. Cell phones are banned for all students attending Partnership Academy Alternative School.