

<b>Policy Title</b>	<b>Use of Electronic Devices</b>		
<b>Date of Issue</b>	December 16, 2008	<b>Related Procedure</b>	AP 2314-D
<b>Revision Dates</b>	December 15, 2009 March 23, 2010 February 21, 2012 (rev. Rationale-Strategic Plan)	<b>Related Forms</b>	
<b>Review Date</b>	December 1, 2015	<b>Originator</b>	Board of Trustees
<b>References</b>			
Education Act: Section 265 (Duties of a Principal); Regulation 298 (Duties of Teachers); Regulation 427/07 "Suspension and Expulsion of Students; BP 6821-D "Bullying Prevention & Intervention"; Bill 118 Countering Distracted Driving and Promoting Green Transportation Act, 2009			

**Policy:**

**RATIONALE**

Bluewater District School Board Policies will support and provide direction necessary to achieve the Board's Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.

As new technologies continue to expand, they change the educational environment in many positive ways. Appropriate use of and educational benefits of technology should be taught by all teachers, particularly as it relates to Bluewater District School Board's Character Development focus. However, with expanding technologies there are implications related to safety, privacy and the intrusive nature of such devices. It is therefore a challenge to find the balance between educational benefit and any negative impact related to the use of these new technologies. It is important to maximize the benefit while governing the use of these devices to ensure the safety of the teaching/learning and work environment.

**POLICY**

**Bluewater District School Board permits the use of hand-held electronic devices on Board property providing such use is in accordance with all applicable legislation, and respects the privacy, safety and well-being of all individuals.**

**Hand-held electronic devices may be used in the classroom setting to support student learning and achievement providing such use:**

- is in accordance with all applicable legislation and respects the privacy of all individuals;**
- respects the rights of others to an orderly classroom environment;**
- does not interfere with the students own achievement or that of other students;**
- supports the curriculum and curriculum delivery; and,**
- is monitored by the supervising staff member.**

**SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS**

- The requirements of this policy will be incorporated into School Codes of Conduct. Schools will adhere to the policy in day-to-day operations and will communicate the policy to students, parents/guardians, staff, volunteers, employees of contracted service providers and visitors.
- Bluewater District School Board's Ten Character Attributes will be demonstrated by all individuals when utilizing electronic devices.
- The integrity of everyone's right to attend a workplace that maintains privacy and is free of harassment will be supported through the regulated use of Hand-Held Electronic Devices.
- Safe, caring, and orderly environments promote student achievement.

- Hand-held electronic devices can provide a safety net for students and staff.
- Assistive hand-held electronic devices are an identified requirement in Individual Educational Plans for some students.
- Parameters will be established for the use of hand-held electronic devices in the school/learning and work environment or at school sanctioned activities.
- There will be a clear differentiation between hand-held electronic devices supplied by the school for educational purposes in the learning environment and student/non-school supplied hand-held electronic Devices.
- All relative legislation pertaining to the use of hand-held wireless communication devices and electronic entertainment devices, including cell phones and blackberry devices will be adhered to (use of these devices is prohibited while driving a motor vehicle, whether it is your personal vehicle or a Board vehicle). Exception to this use would be hands-free mode or if the vehicle is stopped and is off the traveled part of a road or if the driver is contacting the ambulance, police or fire department emergency services.
- All relative legislation pertaining to devices that have a display screens visible to the driver of the vehicle will be adhered to and this includes television screens, computer screens or other such display screens (excludes global positioning system navigation devices, tracking systems, collision avoidance systems or display screens that provide information pertaining to the status of systems in the vehicle.)

**This policy applies to:**

- Board employees, students, parents/guardians, volunteers, employees of contracted service providers and visitors when attending at any Board site, or at any Board or school sponsored activity.
- Any person travelling on behalf of the board in their own personal vehicle or in a board owned or leased vehicle.

**This policy does not apply:**

- To the authorized use of photographic/video and audio recording of school events including but not limited to graduation, theatrical productions, sports, athletic or other similar events as determined and approved by the principal.
- To authorized use of photographic/video and audio recording for educational, instructional and/or research purposes as approved by the Board or the school principal.