



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM

DATE: July 27, 2006

SUBJECT: Policy 237 – Electronic Devices

INITIATED BY: John Hansen Principal

DESCRIPTION:

First reading of revised Policy 237- Electronic Devices.

Delete entire current Policy 237-Prohibition of Telephone Pagers, and replace with revised Policy 237-Electronic Devices.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt policy at next meeting, August 24, 2006

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: PROHIBITION OF
TELEPHONE PAGERS

ADOPTED: December 19, 1996

REVISED:

Erie County Technical School

237. PROHIBITION OF TELEPHONE PAGERS

1. Authority

Act. 103
of 1989

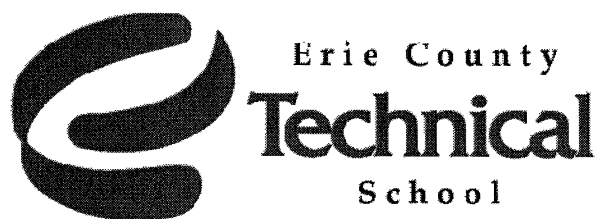
The possession by students of telephone paging devices, commonly referred to as beepers, shall be prohibited on school grounds, at school sponsored activities and on buses or other vehicles provided by the school.

The prohibition shall not apply in the following cases, provided that the school authorities approve of the presence of the beeper in each case:

1. A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.
2. A student who has a need for a beeper due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.

Students are also prohibited from carrying or being in possession of cellular phones while at the Erie County Technical School.

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SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ADOPTED:

REVISED:

	237. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES
1. Purpose	The Joint Operating Committee of the Erie County Technical School recognizes that students use, or desire to use, various electronic devices while at school, on school property or attending school-sponsored events. This policy is intended to create guidelines on students' possession and use of various electronics devices while on school property, school buses or vehicles or at school-sponsored activities and events.
2. Delegation of Responsibility	The Principal shall develop procedures to implement this policy. The building administrators shall be responsible for the implementation of this policy at his/her respective level.
3. Authority SC 510	Student shall use or possess electronic devices on school grounds, school buses or vehicles provided by the districts, and at school sponsored activities and events as set forth in the following guidelines.
4. Definitions	Academic school day is the time the students arrive on school property for school, including on school buses or other vehicles, to the official dismissal time set forth by the Erie County Technical School or until the time the students exit their school buses or other vehicles. Electronic devices include permitted electronic devices, prohibited electronic devices, and restricted electronic devices. Permitted electronic devices include, but are not limited to, laptop computers, hand held computers, palm pilots, and any other similar devices or new technology developed for similar purposes, which are intended or actually used for instructional or educational purposes as approved by either the principal or classroom instructor. Prohibited electronic devices include, but are not limited to, laser pointers and attachments, radios, video games, walkie-talkies, two-way communication devices, including new technology developed for similar purposes, such as text messaging or cellular telephones with photo capabilities.

5. Guidelines	Restricted electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cellular telephones, whether analog, digital or other telephone technology, telephone paging devices, beepers, headphones, and any other technologic device designed to receive or send an electronic signal, including any technology developed for similar purposes. <u>Permitted Electronic Devices</u> Students may possess and use permitted electronic devices on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or event, and on school buses or vehicles. Students must receive prior authorization by either the principal or the classroom instructor to use permitted electronic devices. A student's use of a permitted electronic device for a purpose other than instruction or education will render the use of the electronic device prohibited, and the consequences for the use of prohibited electronic devices shall apply. Many permitted electronic devices have wireless internet connection capabilities. A student using the wireless internet capabilities on a permitted electronic device shall abide by Erie County Technical School's Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy. A failure to do so will render the use of that electronic device prohibited, and the consequences for the use of prohibited electronic devices, in addition to the consequences set forth in the Erie County Technical School's Computer/Internet Acceptable Use policy, shall apply. <u>Restricted Electronic Devices</u> Students may possess and use restricted electronic devices in the following circumstances:
SC 1317.1	1. Telephone paging devices/beepers – The possession and use of telephone paging devices is prohibited on school property, at school-sponsored activities and events, and on school buses or other vehicles, unless the student receives pre-approval to possess and use the device for one of the following reasons: - The student is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance, or rescue squad. - The student has a need for a telephone paging device or beeper due to his/her own medical condition or the medical condition of an immediate family member. The building principal shall exercise discretion when deciding whether to grant approval of such requests. In all cases, such requests must be in writing and signed

by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). Erie County Technical School also reserves the right to request a verified and signed statement from either the treating physician or volunteer fire, ambulance, or rescue squad supervisor attesting to the need for a volunteer paging device or beeper.

Using or possessing a telephone paging device or beeper without obtaining the requisite pre-approval will render the possession/use prohibited and the consequences for the use of prohibited electronic devices shall apply.

2. **Cellular telephones** – Students may use or possess cellular telephones subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Cellular telephones must be turned off and be inaccessible for students use and out of sight during the academic school day. Students may keep cellular phones in their lockers.
- b. Cellular telephones may be used at the conclusion of school-sponsored activities or events.
- c. Cellular telephones may be used during the academic school day and during school-sponsored activities and events only if the student receives pre-approval for one of the following reasons:
 - 1) The student is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance, or rescue squad.
 - 2) The student has a need for a cellular telephone due to his/her own medical condition or the medical condition of an immediate family member, or for any other similar emergency situation.

The building principal shall exercise discretion when deciding whether to grant approval of such requests. In all cases, such requests must be in writing and signed by the student's parents(s)/guardians(s). Erie County Technical School also reserves the right to request a verified and signed statement from either the treating physician or volunteer fire, ambulance, or rescue squad supervisor attesting to the need for a cellular telephone.

Using or possessing a cellular telephone in violation of these restrictions will render the possession/use prohibited and the consequences for the use of prohibited electronic devices shall apply.

3. **Headphones** – Students may use personal headphones only for classroom use with permission of the instructor.

Prohibited Electronic Devices

Students are prohibited from possessing or using prohibited electronic devices on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or event, and on school buses or vehicles.

Students who use wireless technology devices for taking pictures of instructional assignments, tests or inappropriate pictures will result in the confiscation of the device and consequences to the student.

The consequences for the possession or use of a prohibited electronic device are as follows:

1. **First offense:** Confiscation of the electronic device and parent contact. (The electronic device will not be returned directly to student; parent must appear to collect the electronic device.) Student will be assigned break detention.
2. **Second and subsequent offenses:** Confiscation of the electronic device and parent contact. (The electronic device will not be returned directly to student; parent must appear to collect the electronic device.) Student will be assigned In School Suspension (ISS). Student shall lose the privilege to possess/use any electronic device on school property, at school-sponsored events and activities and on school buses and other vehicles, for one (1) calendar year.

References:

Pennsylvania Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Act –
18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5703

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1317.1

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