REGULATION Board of Education of Queen Anne's County

Responsible Office:	Assistant Superintendent

REGULATION for Personal Electronic Communications Device Policy 603

I. REGULATION ELEMENTS

A. **Use of Electronic Communication Devices Cell/Smart Phones in Queen Anne's County Public Schools (QACPS)**

1. As set forth in the Board of Education of Queen Anne's County (Board) Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Policy (AUP) under no circumstances are students or employees permitted to use electronic communication devices including on Queen Anne's County Public School (QACPS) property or during school-sponsored activities or events in order to transmit any text or images that are obscene, pornographic, illegal, profane, violate academic policies, or invade another's privacy. This includes "sexting" (the sharing of explicit or otherwise sexually provocative photos) and inappropriate digital content.

2. Additionally, as set forth in the Board's Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Policy, QACPS will not assume any responsibility or liability for loss, damage, or destruction of any personal (both student and employee) electronic communication device.

3. Guidelines for use of student electronic communication devices:

   (a) Prior to entering the school building, the electronic communication device must be turned off and stored in the student's clothing, backpack, purse, classroom storage area, or locker/cubby.
   (b) Students are prohibited from using an electronic communication device during the academic school day.
   (c) Students are prohibited from accessing or using a social media platform during the academic school day.
   (d) All students who have an electronic device used as part of their I EP, 504, behavior or medical plan are authorized to carry such a device during the academic school day for reasonable accommodations related to a disability or for monitoring a documented health issue.
   (e) Multilingual students may use electronic communication devices to access language translation tools when school-issued electronic communication devices are not available or sufficient for this purpose.
   (f) Students who must use electronic communication devices to meet caregiving responsibilities may do so as approved by the principal.
   (g) During regular bus transportation to and from school students may only use

electronic communication devices with bus driver permission.

B. Consequences for Use During the Academic School Day

1. The consequences for students shall conform to the Queen Anne's County Public Schools School Based Discipline Code.

2. Use of an electronic communication device for another infraction such as bullying, academic dishonesty, unauthorized recording, disruption, etc. may face disciplinary action in accordance with the Discipline Code for that infraction.

3. The consequences for QACPS employees shall conform to the appropriate policy regulation, collective bargaining agreement, and the Maryland Code.

C. Confiscation Procedures

1. Staff members may require students to surrender devices used in violation of policy.

2. Confiscated devices shall be secured in accordance with school procedures.

3. Schools may require parent/guardian retrieval for repeated violations.

4. Staff shall avoid searching device contents unless authorized by law, Board policy, or when necessary to address safety concerns.

D. Communication with Families

1. Parents/guardians who need to contact students during the school day should communicate through the school office.

2. Schools shall communicate annual expectations and procedures regarding personal electronic communication devices to students and families.

E. Staff Responsibilities

1. Any staff member having knowledge of unauthorized possession or use of an electronic communication device by a student on QACPS property shall promptly report this information to the Principal/designee and shall consistently enforce policy and regulation expectations.

2. School administrators shall ensure staff receive annual training and communication regarding implementation procedures.

3. Staff shall model appropriate digital citizenship and responsible technology use.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent directs QACPS staff to implement this regulation.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

Date: August 5, 2026

Matthew Kibler, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Queen Anne's County Public Schools

HISTORY:

Initial Adoption	01/04/17	**Revised**	04/06/22 08/05/27	**Reviewed**	--/--/----	**Next Review**	04/01/27