

Social Media For Students

The Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes the importance of social media for its students and acknowledges that its students have certain rights under the First Amendment. However, these rights must be balanced against the school’s need to maintain order at school and to prevent disruption of the educational process. Accordingly, the Board will regulate students’ use of social media on school property or at a school sponsored event, when:

1. school officials reasonably forecast that such use shall interfere or disrupt the effective operation of the school district or school sponsored activities/events; or
2. such use is used to engage in libelous, defamatory, obscene, profane, vulgar or similarly inappropriate communications or bullying; or
3. such use advocates or encourages illegal activity or endangers the health or safety of students, staff or others; or
4. such use infringes upon the rights of others; or
5. such use violates the law, board policies and/or other school rules or regulations.

The Board may also regulate students’ use of social media off school grounds when such use meets the criteria described above and is seriously disruptive of the educational process. Students who violate this policy will be subject to school discipline up to and including expulsion according to Wallingford Public Schools Board policy JGD – Suspension and Expulsion and consistent with state and federal law.

Legal References: U.S. Constitution, Amend. 1
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)
Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986)
Morse v. Frederick, 551 U.S. 393 (2007)

Policy Adopted: 01/22/13