



REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 207.2018

To: Schools Division Superintendents
School Heads
All concerned



DEPED-CAR Time: _____

Prohibition of use of Mobile Devices and Wearable Technologies within the School Premises and Reiteration of DECS ORDERS NOS. 70, s. 1999 and 26, s. 2000; and DepED ORDER NO. 83, s. 2003 (Prohibiting Students of Elementary and Secondary Schools from Using Cellular Phones and Pagers during Class Hours)

1. The Department of Education issued the abovementioned Orders to prohibit or forbid students from using cellular phones and pagers during class hours and within school premises. Until now, reports have reached this Office that some students have been using their cellular phones inside the classrooms even during class hours and within school premises.
2. The use of cellular phones and other mobile devices specifically text messaging, gaming, watching, chatting through Social Network messaging applications have diverted the attention of the students from their studies, causing disturbance to classes, and are also used by students as instruments for cheating during examinations.
3. It has been noted that the use of smart phones and other mobile devices have proliferated the access and sharing of lewd and obscene pictures and videos particularly those capable of Multi-Media Services. **Worse, this Office has received reports that some students are using their mobile devices to watch pornographic videos within the school premises.**
4. Study also shows that use of cell phones within the school premises, may it be during class hours or during break times have various negative effects not only to the students but also to the teachers as well, such as negative side effects with their academic achievement (Junco, R. 2012: In-class multi-tasking and academic performance, pp. 2236-2242); negative effects on other students in proximity (Wood, et al., 2012: Examining the impact of off-tasking multi-tasking with technology on real time classroom learning, pp. 365-374); cell phone usage inside the classroom is distracting to teachers, in effect has a negative impact on the entire class.
5. In view of this, the use of mobile devices such as but not limited to cellular phones, smart phones, tablets, iPods, as well as wearable technologies such as but not limited to smart watches, virtual reality (VR) headsets, smart glasses and wearable cameras within the school premises is prohibited to prevent the



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occurrence of the aforementioned negative effects of using these devices to the students and teachers.

6. School officials and parents are hereby mandated to discuss this during the PTA General Assembly, Homeroom PTA Meeting, and to be included in the Student Code of Conduct, School Manuals, Child Protection Policy or Anti-Bullying Policies.
7. Violations of this Memorandum shall be subject to appropriate sanctions as provided in the school's Student Code of Conduct or Manuals, Child protection policies and Anti-bullying policies pursuant to applicable DepED Rules and Regulations.
8. Immediate dissemination and strict compliance with this Memorandum is hereby directed.


MAY B. ECLAR, Ph.D., CESO V
Regional Director

References: *DepED Order No. 83, s. 2003*
DECS Order Nos. 70, s. 1999 and 26, s. 2000