I. PURPOSE
To establish a uniform, countywide policy that defines when electronic communication devices may be in schools and how students, staff, and visitors shall use them. ALLOWS FOR THE ACCEPTABLE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS.

II. DEFINITIONS
Electronic Communication — Portable wireless devices that can send and/or receive messages.
Device: The time students enter the school building to report for the instructional day until the last class is dismissed.
School Day: Any non-stationary electronic apparatus with singular or multiple capabilities of recording, storing, processing, and/or transmitting data, video, photographic images, and/or voice emanations.

III. POLICY STATEMENT
The Board of Education has a strong commitment to the learning process in schools. Therefore, the Board of Education prohibits the use of certain wireless communication devices, which, in its opinion, has limited or no educational value or that its use creates learner distraction or learning environment disruptions. Electronic communication devices are among the devices that are considered to be a distraction and disruption.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNIZES THAT THE USE OF PERSONALLY OWNED PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES PLAYS A BENEFICIAL ROLE IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS WHEN USED WITHIN ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES. TO THAT END, CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALLOWS FOR THE USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES OWNED BY ADULTS AND STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

To minimize disruptions and distractions during the school day and on school buses:

A. Students:
1. Are prohibited from using electronic communication devices during the school day.
2. Shall turn off the audible notification on their electronic communication devices while being transported on a school bus.

B. Staff and visiting adults:
1. Shall turn off the audible notification on their electronic communication device during the school day.
2. Shall limit the use of electronic communication devices to emergencies or to facilitate school system business.
3. Whenever possible, shall refrain from using electronic communication devices in the vicinity of students.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

1. The principal may approve written requests from fire and rescue chiefs or other emergency agencies that need trained students to respond to a community emergency.

2. Students with disabilities who require the use of electronic communication devices, as designated by their Individual Education Plan (IEP), for medical or educational reasons may use them during the school day with written permission of the principal.

V. GUIDELINES

The appropriate use of other portable communication devices is described in the Administrative Regulations for this policy. THE ACCEPTABLE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES IS DESCRIBED IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS FOR THIS POLICY.

VI. REPORTS

None

VII. EXPIRATION/REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at the end of three (3) years, or sooner.

VIII. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The superintendent/designee has the responsibility for enforcing this policy and regulations by communicating it to all relevant parties and by providing necessary instructions and/or administrative regulations to all staff members.

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED: November 20, 1974
REVISED: January 9, 1980
REVISED: February 5, 1992
REVISED: August 10, 2005