**HCPS PORTABLE COMMUNIATION POLICY**

A portable communications device is a hand-held or wearable device which has cellular or Wi-Fi capability. Students may possess or use a portable communication device (PCD) on school grounds and buses under the following circumstances:

• **Students in any grade may possess and use a PCD on school grounds and buses when authorized to do so pursuant to the student’s Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan.**

Secondary Schools:

• **Secondary teachers may allow students to use a PCD in the school building for an instructional purpose following the Responsible Use Procedure.**

• **The use of personal communication devices (PCDs) to support instruction is a privilege.**

Students are expected to:

**∙ Take responsibility for personal devices. HCPS is not responsible for the security of personal technology devices.**

**∙ Immediately comply with teachers’ requests to shut down devices or close the screen. Devices must be on silent mode and put away when asked by teachers.**

**∙ Transmit or post photographic images/videos of oneself or instructional material only when such action is for a purpose within an HCPS telecommunications platform or tool.**

**∙ Charge a PCD prior to bringing it to school.**

**∙ Use the HCPS wireless connection (BYOT wireless network) in order to comply with the use of content filters. The HCPS community will not bypass the network restriction by using an external network.**

***∙ HCPS will not provide support for PCDs.***

• **When not used for instructional purposes, the PCD should not be activated.**

Students in elementary school may possess a PCD on school grounds and buses during the regular school day provided the PCD is kept and maintained in the student’s backpack or cubby and is deactivated. Students enrolled in any grade may use a PCD on school grounds before the regular school day and after the regular school day.

Students enrolled in any grade may use a PCD on school buses before or after the regular school day provided:

• **The student does not use the PCD for conversation, calls, photographing or videoing;**

• **Such use does not include implementation of the audio component of the PCD unless the student uses ear buds. Students’ possession or use of PCDs permitted under this policy shall not:**

• **Disrupt the educational environment;**

• **Violate federal or state law or regulation;**

• **Violate Board policy and procedure including Board policy and procedure relating to student conduct and harassment; or**

• **Invade the privacy of other students. Students who violate the above restrictions shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.**