

**UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS/DRONES)**

The Governing Board recognizes that unmanned aircraft or aerial systems (drones) may be a useful tool to enhance the instructional program and assist with district operations. In order to avoid disruption and maintain the safety, security and privacy of students, staff, visitors or any person or entity desiring to use a drone on or over district property shall submit a written request for permission to the Director of Risk Management or designee.

A small, unmanned *aircraft system* (UAS) or drone is an aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds that is operated remotely without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft and the associated elements, including communication links and controls, required for the pilot to operate the aircraft safely and efficiently. It does not include model aircraft or rockets such as those which are radio controlled and used only for hobby or recreational purposes. (49 USC 40101 Note; 14 CFR 107.3)

The use of a UAS/Drone is prohibited without the written permission of the district. The Director of Risk Management or designee may grant permission to district employees and students for the use of drones only if the planned activity supports instructional, co-curricular, extracurricular, athletic or operational purposes. Such uses may include, but are not limited to, instruction in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), the arts or other subjects; maintenance of grounds and facilities; and campus security. When used for instructional purposes, there shall be a clear and articulable connection between drone technology and the course curriculum. Students shall only operate a drone on or over district property under the supervision of a district employee as part of an authorized activity.

The Director of Risk Management or designee may grant permission to other persons or entities under terms and conditions to be specified in a memorandum of understanding.

No video recording (without sound) or photography by UAS/Drone on or over district property is permitted without the express written consent of the Director of Risk Management or designee. Audio recording by UAS/Drone is strictly prohibited.

According to FAA guidance, Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), student use of drones as a component of a course most closely reflects a "hobby or recreational use" and thus, while still subject to rules related to safe operation, students are not required to obtain FAA authorization. However, because a teacher receives compensation, their use is not "hobby or recreational" and thus they are required to obtain the appropriate Certificate of Waiver or Authorization or an exemption from the FAA. For requirements pertaining to certification, see 14 CFR 107.53-107.79 and the FAA's web site.

Any person or entity requesting to operate a drone on or over district property, including a district employee, shall provide a description of the type of operation requested, flight location, date and time of the planned flight, anticipated duration and whether photos and/or video will be taken. As applicable, the applicant shall also present a copy of their Certificate of Waiver or Authorization or exemption issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.

**UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES)** (continued)

Any person or entity, other than a district employee or student, who is requesting or operating a drone on or over district property shall agree to hold the district harmless from any claims of harm to individuals or property resulting from the operation of the drone and provide proof of adequate liability insurance covering such use.

In determining whether to grant permission for the requested use of a drone, the Director of Risk Management or designee shall consider the intended purpose of the activity and its potential impact on safety, security and privacy. The decision of the Director of Risk Management or designee shall be final.

Any person authorized to use a drone on district property shall sign an acknowledgment that they understand and will comply with the terms and conditions of the district's policy, federal law and regulations, state law and any local ordinances related to the use of drones.

When any use of drones is authorized, the Director of Risk Management or designee shall notify the drone operator of the following conditions:

1. The operator is responsible for complying with applicable federal, state and/or local laws and regulations, including federal safety regulations pursuant to 14 CFR 107.15-107.51 which include, but are not limited to, requirements that the drone not be flown at night, above 400 feet in altitude or over any people unless they are in a covered structure or stationary vehicle. The operator shall maintain the visual line of sight with the drone at all times.
2. The drone shall be kept away from any area reasonably considered private, including, but not limited to, restrooms, locker rooms and individual homes.
3. The district reserves the right to rescind the authorization for use of drones at any time.

The Director of Risk Management or designee may remove any person engaged in unauthorized drone use on district property and/or may confiscate the drone. They may also shut down the operation of any authorized drone use whenever the operator fails to comply with the terms of the authorization or the use interferes with district activity, creates electronic interference or poses unacceptable risks to individuals or property.

Any student or staff member violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with district policies and procedures.

**UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES)** (continued)

**Policy Reference Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

**Federal Resources**

USC 40101  
CFR 107.1-107.205  
CFR 107.12  
CFR 107.15-107.51  
CFR 107.53-107.79

**Description**

Unmanned aircraft systems  
Small Unmanned aircraft systems, especially:  
Requirement for a remote pilot certificate with a small UAS rating  
Operating Rules; Safety  
Remote pilot certification

**Management Resources**

Federal Aviation Administration  
Publications  
Website

**Description**

Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS),  
Memorandum, May 4, 20016  
Federal Aviation Administration: <https://www.faa.gov/uas>

**Cross References**

1330  
1330.1  
5142  
3530  
3515.2  
4118  
5144  
5144.1

**Description**

Use of School Facilities  
Joint Use Agreement  
Safety  
Risk Management/Insurance  
Disruptions  
Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action  
Discipline  
Suspension and Expulsion/due Process