

Policy 4.65 DRONES

1. Operation and Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)

A. The School Board is committed to providing all students and staff with technology-based learning opportunities. Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV'S/drones) is a privilege which comes with responsibilities that must be adhered to.

1. Unmanned aircraft (drones) are defined as any powered, aerial vehicle that when operated outdoors is subject to Federal and/or State regulations.
2. Staff and students shall only operate drones in accordance with this policy and applicable Federal guidelines. Any inappropriate use must be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

B. Drone Use Pre-Qualification Guidelines

1. Any staff member who requests to use drones in their curriculum program must provide educational objective supporting documentation and obtain permission from their administrator.
2. Any staff member who requests to use drones in an athletic program must meet the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) guidelines and seek permission from their administrator.
3. Any staff member who has been granted permission to use drones in their curriculum or athletic program must obtain Part 107 licensing (remote operator certificate).
4. All drones owned and operated by the District are to be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

C. Operation Guidelines

1. Staff and students shall not operate drones within five (5) miles of any airport without prior notification and acknowledgment from airport authorities. Written documentation for notification should be logged and kept on file by the notifying staff member.
2. Students shall not operate drones without the presence of supervising staff.
3. All proper safety equipment must be used by any operator(s) and observer(s) to include eye and ear protection.

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4. The principal or a district administrator must approve the use of any drone on school grounds in advance.
5. Staff and students shall not operate drones above an altitude of 400 feet above ground level or within 400 feet of a structure as outlined in Part 107 guidelines.
6. Staff and students shall ensure that they maintain safe control and line of sight when operating a drone. Broadcast from a remote location does not constitute line of sight.
7. Staff and students shall not operate a drone with a weight of more than 55 lbs.
8. Staff and students shall not operate drones before sunrise or after sunset or in adverse weather conditions.
9. Staff and students shall not operate drones within proximity to or above individuals, crowds, or vehicles, to include parking lots, bleachers, sporting events, school-based activities or functions.
10. If used outside, and if the drone were to be flown/blown onto a building roof, off-campus location, or another restricted area, the teacher/coach must report it immediately to school administration and appropriate support staff, i.e. custodial staff, or technical services if the drone is located on the roof. Students shall not be used to retrieve the drone under any such circumstances.
11. Staff and students shall not :
 - (a) Operate a drone over a critical infrastructure facility;
 - (b) Allow a drone to make contact with a critical infrastructure facility, including any person or object on the premises of or within the facility; or
 - (c) Allow a drone to come within a distance of a critical infrastructure facility that is close enough to interfere with the operations of or cause a disturbance to the facility.

Critical Infrastructure facility is defined in F.S,330.41(2)(a)

2. Inappropriate Use

- A. Staff and students shall not operate drones under circumstances where profit would be generated.

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- B. Staff and students shall not operate drones broadcasting or recording images of people or property where the reasonable expectation of privacy exists or over areas that are normally deemed private by social norms, such as restrooms, locker rooms, or residential areas.
- C. Staff and students shall not operate drones indoors, i.e. no flying in classrooms.

3. Drone Injuries or Incidents

- A. Any injuries or property damage resulting from District drone use shall immediately be reported to the operator's direct supervisor and to the Risk Management Department. Further use of the drone in question will be suspended until an investigation of the events takes place and clearance for use is provided.

Any scenarios not addressed within this policy shall be governed by the appropriate Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action for staff and/or students and/or revocation of drone use privileges.

References

Code of Federal Regulation PART 107—SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

Florida High School Athletic Association Guideline Handbook

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

1001.41; 1001.42 F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:

**330.41; 934.50; 1001.42; F.S.
Title 49 U.S.C §§40101, 40102 and 40103
14 C.F.R § 1.1
Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular AC 91-57A
Public Law 112-95
Code of Federal Regulation Part 107 – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems
Florida High School Athletic Association Guideline Handbook**