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District Policy

7481 - UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS also know as Drones)

Section: Property
Date Created: August 2016
Date Edited: December 2023

The Board of Education is concerned for the safety of all staff members, students, parents, community members, and visitors while on school grounds. The Board of Education recognizes the operation of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) on school grounds or flying an unmanned aircraft on or over school grounds presents a public safety issue as school grounds are populated many hours of the day by students, staff members, parents, and community members.

An unmanned aircraft system is the unmanned aircraft and all the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc. necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. The unmanned aircraft is the flying portion of the system by a pilot via a ground control system, or autonomously through the use of an on-board computer, communication links and any additional equipment that is necessary for the unmanned aircraft to operate safely. A model aircraft is considered an unmanned aircraft.

The operation of an unmanned aircraft system on school grounds, the launching or landing of an unmanned aircraft on school grounds, or the flying of an unmanned aircraft over school grounds is only permissible when authorized by the Superintendent or designee.

The use of an unmanned aircraft system for school district purposes that is owned and operated by the Board of Education, or owned and operated by a student and used in an approved school district program, must be operated with the permission of a school district staff member(s). The Superintendent or designee shall approve the specific activity(ies) or event(s) in which an unmanned aircraft system may be used, whether on or off campus. Students who earned their Part 107 drone license, and demonstrate proficiency with drone flight, may operate an unmanned aircraft for a school activity and/or event as the Pilot in Command, with the approval of the Superintendent or designee, following a detailed plan outlining where they're going to fly, the day/time of flight, and the intended duration of flight.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the use of a school district-owned or student-owned unmanned aircraft system is in compliance with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration regulations and State and local laws for the operation of an unmanned aircraft system. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure the Board of Education has insurance coverage for the use or operation of an unmanned aircraft system. The insurance coverage shall be determined by the Board after consultation with the Board's insurance company and Board Attorney.

The Board of Education may post signage on school grounds indicating the operation of an unmanned aircraft system or flying an unmanned aircraft over school grounds without Board of Education approval is prohibited at all times.

The Board of Education will take appropriate action in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations and/or any State and local laws against any violations of the provisions of this Policy.

Adopted: 15 August 2016
Revised: 11 December 2023

