

# CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROPERTY

TITLE: UNMANNED AIRCRAFT  
SYSTEMS - DRONES

ADOPTED: January 8, 2019

REVISED:

## 719. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS - DRONES

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assist the Centennial School District in promoting safety, reducing injuries, and complying with Applicable Law, regulations, and policies. In addition, the District recognizes its responsibility with regard to the protection of the privacy rights of students as provided in federal law and state statutes. Thus, the use of any non-District owned or operated UAS/UAV/drone for any purpose on District property is prohibited.

### Definitions

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) – any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device; these devices are also referred to as an unmanned aircraft vehicle (UAV) or drone(s). Furthermore, the drone must not be designed and/or constructed by or at the direction of the Centennial School District. Please note that this does not apply to “unmanned aircrafts” sold to the public that requires some assembly.

District Owned UAS, UAV, drones – Devices owned and operated by the Centennial School District. **Please note that UAS, UAV, and drones not owned by the District are prohibited without written authorization from the Superintendent.**

School District Property – all buildings and grounds, instructional or otherwise, indoors and outdoors.

1. Examples include, but are not limited to, classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, pools, athletic fields, courts, mats, gym floor, spectator areas, parking lots, buses, bus stops, and travel to and from bus stops.
2. School District property shall also include all buildings and grounds used and not owned by the Centennial School District for school sponsored events and activities, instructional or otherwise.

### Authority

The laws of the State of Pennsylvania provide that Boards of Education may authorize School District property to be used for any lawful or proper purpose. Such use of property shall not interfere with the educational purpose and operation of the public schools.

Guidelines

1. Use of drones on School District property is strictly prohibited except as provided immediately hereafter:
  - a. School employees and/or students may be authorized to use drones on School District property for educational purposes only with permission of the instructor or building principal. Under no circumstance will authorized employees and/or students fly drones on or over Non-school District property.
  - b. Community groups with a legitimate purpose must obtain proper authorization from the Superintendent in writing prior to drone use. (See 719-AR-1). The written authorization must state, in writing, the date and time for of the planned flight, as well as the anticipated flight duration (in minutes and/or hours). The written authorization must indicate the flight location. The written authorization must also state whether photos and/or video will be permitted during that specific use. Under no circumstance will written authority permit authorized drone operators to fly drones on or over Non-school District property.
  - c. The authorized drone operator will comply with all FAA requirements and must provide proof of compliance to the Superintendent prior to receiving written authorization. FAA requirements are determined based on the size and/or weight of the drone.
  - d. The authorization shall contain an acknowledgment that the employee and/or student understands the terms and conditions of the District's permission to fly drones on or over School District property and agrees to comply with all District policies.
  - e. The Superintendent will request proof of the drone operator's experience. The District retains the right to withhold authorization if the drone operator's experience cannot be verified.
  - f. The District retains the sole and absolute discretion to extend permission to operate drones on or over School District property to District employee and/or student applicants.
2. Employees who operate drones on or over School District property without prior written authorization may be subject to disciplinary action.
3. Employees or students who operate drones on or over School District property without prior written authorization will be handled according to this policy as well as other applicable policies and may be subject to discipline.
4. School personnel shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a drone on School District property.

5. School personnel will report any unauthorized drone activity on School District property to the Superintendent. If the drone is being piloted by an individual not authorized to be on School District property, the observing employee shall call law enforcement to have the drone operator removed.
6. Individuals on School District property and/or operating a drone above School District property are in violation of this policy and shall be treated as trespassers. Such individuals may be dealt with, including but not limited to, being removed from School District property, receiving a written directive to remain off School District property, and being reported to appropriate law enforcement.
7. The District reserves the right to rescind any facilities use authorization granted under District Policy 707. Use of School Facilities issued to an individual or group who violates any provision of this policy.

#### Athletic Events

The Centennial School District is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) and will enforce the policies of the PIAA regarding drone use. The PIAA 2016-2017 Policies and Procedures Handbook defines a drone as any unmanned aerial device. The PIAA does not permit drones above the competition surface or spectator areas during interscholastic contests, practices, and/or scrimmages and drones may not be used to scout opposing team practices. The PIAA's policies and procedures may be updated in the future and any updates will be enforced by the District. Individuals or schools violating PIAA guidelines regarding drones shall be subject to sanctions.