

Morgan Hill Unified School District

Board Policy

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

BP 3515.21

Business and Noninstructional Operations

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, and visitors, any person or entity desiring to use a drone on or over district property shall submit a written request for permission to the Superintendent or designee.

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

(cf. 1330.1 - Joint Use Agreements)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

A small unmanned aircraft system 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 Superintendent 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, and 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 Superintendent or designee may grant permission to other persons or entities under terms and conditions to be specified in a memorandum of understanding. The Superintendent's decision to grant or not grant permission to operate a drone on or over district property shall be final.

The Superintendent or designee may remove any person engaged in unauthorized drone use on district property and/or may confiscate the drone. He/she 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.

(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

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

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process))

Legal Reference:

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 49

40101 Note Unmanned aircraft systems

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 14

107.1-107.205 Small unmanned aircraft systems, especially:

107.12 Requirement for a remote pilot certificate with a small UAS rating

107.15-107.51 Operating rules; safety

107.53-107.79 Remote pilot certification

Management Resources:

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATIONS

Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Memorandum, May 4, 2016

WEB SITES

Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/uas>