

MILFORD EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONSENT TO RECEIVE TEXT MESSAGES

Employee(s) in the Milford Exempted Village School District would potentially like to send you and/or your student cellphone text messages regarding important school-related information. However, the district recognizes that you may not wish to receive cellular text messages for personal or financial reasons. By signing this agreement, you are indicating that you are willing to participate in this type of electronic communication. If you wish to dissent to cellphone texting for you and/or your child, you must inform the director of athletics & extracurricular activities in writing. Please note that a student will not be penalized for refusing to accept texts from the school district. You may specify the cellphone number(s) you wish to be utilized directly to those staff member(s) that indicate they want to use text messaging.

All employees of the school district who utilize this form of communication are required to sign the School District Cellular Phone Texting Agreement and must comply with the rules and regulations explained by that agreement. Portions of this agreement are included below for your review listing appropriate and inappropriate uses. If at any time you believe a school district staff member has violated their agreement, you should report such behavior to the director of athletics & extracurricular activities and/or the building principal immediately.

If you wish to rescind this consent, you may do so at any time in writing sent to the director of athletics & extracurricular activities.

Appropriate Uses

1. A school district employee must receive written permission from students and parents if a student is under the age of 18 to use cellphone texting prior to use of such technologies, and must specify how and when he or she plans to use texting. If a student or parent refuses to accept text messages from an employee, the school district employee must use an alternative means of communication without any penalty to the student involved.
2. A District employee may maintain a private address book with student cellphone numbers. However, the employee must protect student privacy rights and ensure that the numbers are not available to unauthorized individuals under any circumstances.
3. The content of all text messages must directly involve a school-related subject matter. Cellphone texting should never be used to conduct a personal conversation with a student.
4. If an employee receives an inappropriate text message response from a student, it is the responsibility of that employee to contact a student's parent and school administration immediately to address the behavior.

5. An employee must use text messaging sparingly. A student may incur charges from his or her cellular phone service provider for use of text messaging. Frequent text messaging may be considered harassment as well.

Inappropriate Uses

The school district prohibits all communication with students via texting or other means that may negatively impact the school District's reputation, the reputation of its employees or its educational interests, or that may negatively impact its students or the school community at large. The following types of text messages are therefore strictly prohibited:

1. messages that are sexual in nature, or that otherwise solicit or encourage an inappropriate personal relationship with a student;
2. messages that contain inappropriate language, gestures or signs such as racial slurs, or biased, lewd or lascivious expressions;
3. language that disparages a student on the basis of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, political or religious affiliation, physical characteristics, academic or athletic performance, disability or English language proficiency;
4. messages that are used to harass or intimidate a student or that encourage others to harass or intimidate another student;
5. language that encourages students to act inappropriately or that provokes altercations between students and
6. language that would be considered inappropriate to the educational interests of a student or that would negatively impact the school community at large.

I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION for employees of the Milford Exempted Village School District to send me and/or my child cellular phone text messages for school-related purposes. I further recognize that I may incur charges from my cellular phone service provider for sending or receiving text messages, and agree to take full financial responsibility for those charges. I understand that I must inform the director of athletics & extracurricular activities in writing should I no longer wish to consent to receiving cellular text messages from the Milford Exempted Village School District staff.