

Policy Code: 6480 OPERATION OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (DRONES)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), often referred to as drones, are non-human-carrying aircraft capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere. The statutory parameters of UAVs are outlined in Section 336 of [Public Law 112-95](#) (the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012). Individuals who fly within the scope of these parameters do not require FAA authorization to operate their UAVs; any flight outside these parameters (including any non-hobby, non-recreational operation) requires FAA authorization.

A. Use of UAVs On School System Property by Community Members:

Community members and other non-representatives of Edenton-Chowan Schools wishing to operate an UAV on or over school system property must first obtain a signed consent form from the superintendent or designee for each use and must operate any and all aerial drones in accordance with this policy and all applicable Federal Aviation regulations.

B. Use of UAVs by Representatives of Edenton-Chowan Schools:

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is committed to providing all students and staff with technology-based learning opportunities. Access to UAV technology in Edenton-Chowan Schools is a privilege which brings with it responsibilities. Any representative of Edenton-Chowan Schools, including but not limited to, staff members, students, coaches, sponsors, or parents representing the district or any of its affiliated clubs shall operate any and all district aerial drones in accordance with this policy and all applicable Federal Aviation regulations and shall report any inappropriate use of an UAV to the school principal, superintendent, or other designated school district official.

C. Guidelines:

- The North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) forbids the use of UAVs in the airspace above or within the physical confines of the entire stadium, field, arena, and/or structure during athletic competition, **including pre-and post-game activities.**
- **No later than September 16, 2023, the unmanned aircraft must be equipped with remote identification unless flying within an FAA-recognized identification area.**
- **The operator must not fly the unmanned near emergency response activities.**
- **Unmanned aircraft may not be flown over people or moving vehicles without the express written approval of the superintendent. As a pre-condition of receiving approval, the operator must provide the superintendent information sufficient to determine that the flight will be conducted in compliance with applicable FAA regulations.**
- Operator must not operate an UAV within 5 miles of any airport without prior notification and confirmation from airport authorities.
- Operator must not operate an UAV above an altitude of 400 ft above ground level.
- Operator must maintain safe control and line of sight with UAV during all stages of operation.
- Operator and the UAV must maintain a safe operating distance from crowds.
- Data collected by an UAV can only be used for hobby (educational) purposes and may not be sold for profit.

- Operator must clearly state the purpose of each use of an UAV when requesting authorization to operate an UAV on or over any school system property.
- Operator may not operate an UAV on or over any school system property without first obtaining a signed authorized consent form.
- Operator solely assumes all risk of damage to private or school system property and bodily injury that may occur due to operation of an UAV.

D. Inappropriate Use:

Inappropriate uses of UAVs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Violating any local, state, or federal statutes or regulations ;
- Taking pictures of property or persons without consent;
- Violating safe operating protocols as defined in the UAV user manual and classroom guidelines;
- Failing to follow a district policy while using the district's UAV technology or failing to follow any other policies or guidelines established by district administrators or their designees;
- Harassing, defined as persistently annoying of another, interfering with another's work, insulting, or attacking others;

E. Violations:

District staff shall monitor for inappropriate use of UAV technology as defined by this policy. Violators may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion for students; disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or termination for employees; or revocation of UAV use privileges over school district property and/or any legal recourse available to the district for community members or other non-representatives of Edenton-Chowan Schools.

LEGAL REF: [Title 49 U.S.C. § 40101](#); [P.L. 112-95](#)(126 Stat. 77 *et seq.*); Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular AC 91-57A; [N.C.G.S. 63-95](#); [63-96](#); [14-401.24](#); [15A-300.1](#); NCHSAA Policy is 2.3.3(c)

ADOPTED: December 1, 2015

AMENDED: **June 7, 2022**

Edenton-Chowan Schools