

Policy 8415

Non-Instructional Operations

Drones – Unmanned Aircraft Systems

It is the policy of the McCall-Donnelly School District to maintain a safe learning environment. The District has determined that unapproved use of drones poses a safety hazard. The use or possession of unmanned aircraft or aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person or entity at any District-sponsored event, game, match, tournament, or anywhere in, on or directly above or upon property or premises owned, maintained or used by the District for any purpose, unless otherwise preempted by applicable state or federal law. The District reserves the right to remove or refuse admission to any individual who violates this policy. The District further reserves the right to exclude any individual who violates this policy from future District events. Violators may also be reported to appropriate authorities, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Students or employees violating this policy shall be subject to formal disciplinary action pursuant to District policies.

DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy, the following definitions apply:

“Unmanned aircraft system (UAS)” means an unmanned aircraft vehicle, drone, remotely piloted vehicle, remotely piloted aircraft or remotely operated aircraft that is a powered aerial vehicle that does not carry a human operator, can fly autonomously or remotely and can be expendable or recoverable.

Unmanned aircraft system does not include:

1. Model flying airplanes or rockets including, but not necessarily limited to, those that are radio controlled or otherwise remotely controlled and that are used purely for sport or recreational purposes;
2. An unmanned aircraft system used in mapping or resource management; and
3. Unmanned aircraft used by school personnel with prior administrative approval for classroom instruction, grounds, facilities and maintenance, and campus security.

PROCEDURES FOR USE OF DRONES

An exception to the general rule prohibiting the use of drones may be granted in writing by the Superintendent or designee, in his/her sole discretion. Drone operators shall abide by the following procedures:

All drone operators shall be responsible for complying with all FAA safety guidelines and regulations (subject to change),

- * Fly below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles
- * Maintain visual line of sight with aircraft at all times
- * Remain clear of and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations
- * Do not fly within five (5) miles of an airport unless the airport and control tower have been notified in advance
- * Do not fly above or near people or stadiums
- * Do not fly an aircraft that weighs more than 55 lbs. (including “payload”)
- * Do not be careless or reckless with aircraft

Classroom

The District understands that drones may have some educational value in the classroom setting. A teacher wishing to use/demonstrate drone technology in a classroom-related setting must adhere to the following requirements:

1. A clear and articulable connection between drone technology and the course curriculum must exist;
2. Only the teacher, or appropriately trained and licensed designee, shall be permitted to use/demonstrate drone technology on school grounds;
3. No student-owned drones are permitted;
4. Drones must be equipped with blade guards;
5. Eye protection is required for the drone operator and audience;
6. All drones must be checked in at the main office and remain in a locked location when not in use;
7. Drones shall not be operated indoors;

Private/Commercial

Private or commercial individuals/entities shall be required to adhere to the following procedures and requirements:

1. Requests must be made at least 72 hours in advance;
2. Sign a contract and release of liability with the District;
3. Provide proof of Certificate of Authorization (COA)—or the necessary 333 exemptions—as issued by the FAA, when required;
4. Provide proof of Certificate of Liability Insurance for a minimum of \$1,000,000 that names the McCall-Donnelly School District as an additional insure;
5. All photos/videos taken will become the property of the District;
6. All operators shall be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws;

Policy History:

Adopted: December 2016

Legal Reference:

Idaho Code Section 33-506

Idaho Code Section 21-213

FAA press release from 2/15/15, "DOT and FAA Propose New rules for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems"